



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

10:30 A.M.

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• Parish Administrator: parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org

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 ...*

This Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete, Latin for "rejoice!". "Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Both Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

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

Pre-Service Music

Variations on hymns of the day

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the candle is lit, the Assembly sings v.3 of "Light A Candle."

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are arranged in columns corresponding to the notes of the melody.

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

System 2 (Measures 5-8):
 Hope that heard the a - gea' 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 the ha - tred to up - end.
 Christ has come, our all in all. With the an - gels, let us say:

System 3 (Measures 9-12):
 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.
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May he give water to all who thirst,
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.**

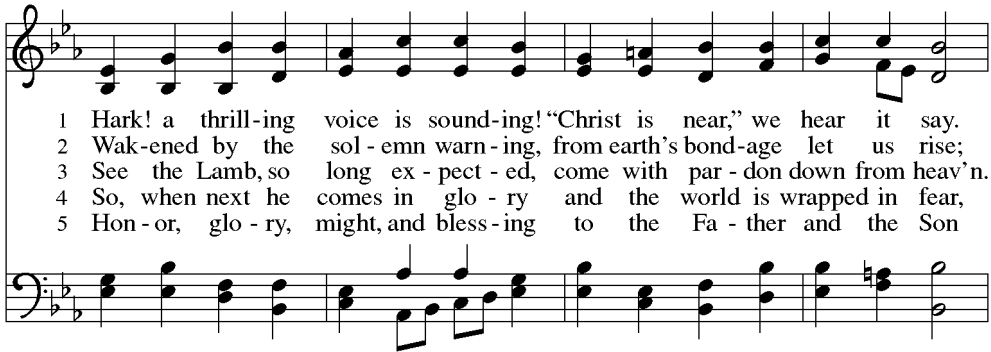
P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
and all things are made new.
Rejoice in this good news!

A Amen.

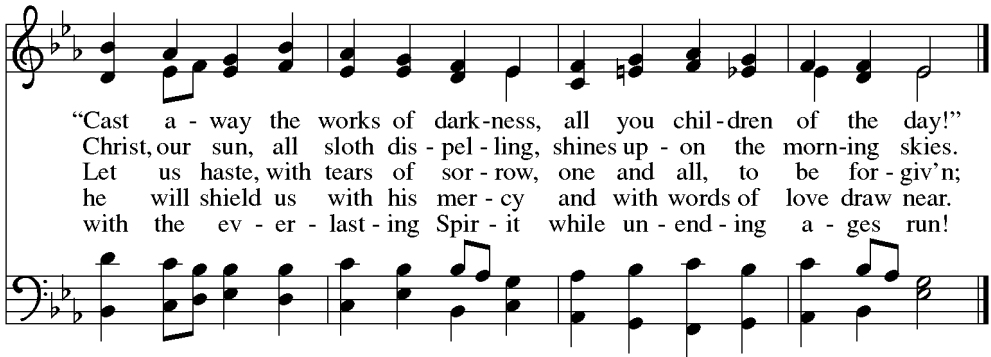
Gathering Song

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" Hymnal 246

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



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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,



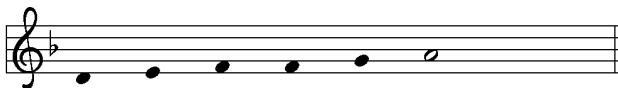
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

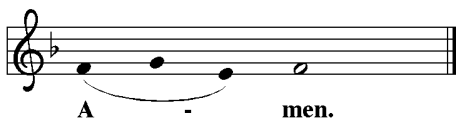
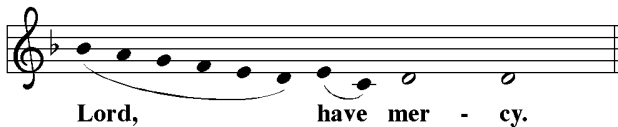


For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

[cont.]



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1–4, 8–11

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

R Word of God, word of life.

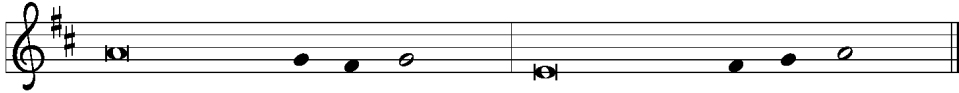
A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 126

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:



¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R**

Reading from the New Testament

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

R A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

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

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

A Glory to you, O Lord!

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
 as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

"Hark, the Glad Sound!" Hymnal 239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

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.**

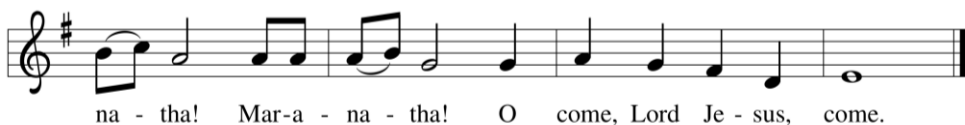
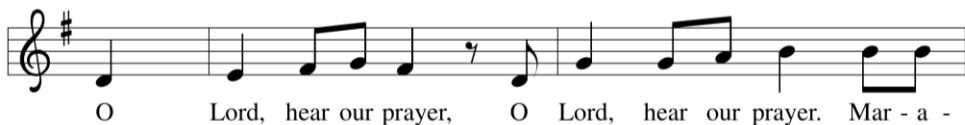
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of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



L Guiding Lord, bless church leaders, volunteers, teachers, musicians, acolytes, deacons, pastors, seminarians, and those discerning a call to ministry. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Kevin, for our council, and for all those you call together. Make us repairers of all that is broken. O Lord, hear our prayer!

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

L Creating God, protect Earth's wilderness, especially where the lands are isolated and unexplored. Watch over all living creatures who remain free from human exploitation. O Lord, hear our prayer!

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

L Prince of Peace, send us your Spirit of unity, so that justice may spring up among the nations. Give us the will to repair the broken systems that perpetuate injustice. O Lord, hear our prayer!

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

L Merciful God, comfort your children who are mourning, bind up the brokenhearted, and heal our wounds. We pray for those who are homeless or imprisoned, refugees, those who struggle with addiction or mental illness, and all in 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, the Larson and Shearer families, Ron Laudert, Carol Rakowsky, George Schiff, 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 Lord of justice, strengthen and increase the ministry of food pantries, meal service deliveries, employment training programs, and advocacy for equity among all classes and races. We lift up especially Hillside Pantry and Curt's Café. O Lord, hear our prayer!

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

L Eternal God, clothe us in your garments of salvation, so that together we may rejoice in your presence with the saints who have died, and with those living saints unable to be with us today. Lord, in your mercy,

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 ...

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

Offering Music

"Prepare Your Hearts" Jacob Handl Gallus

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.**

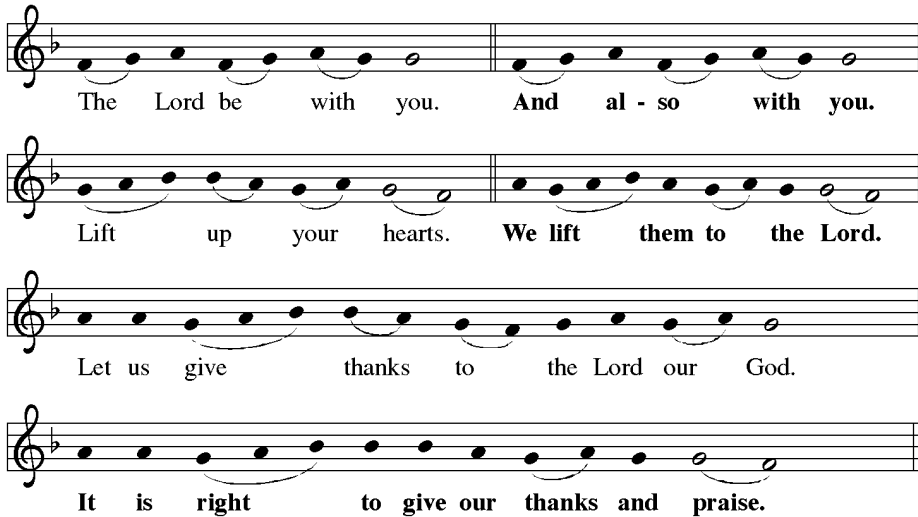
Make your home here in us.

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The lyrics are printed in a serif font, with some words in bold (We lift, them to, the Lord, 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 you have turned our grief into songs of joy, and clothed us in salvation and victory. You planted the earth and all life, and called a people to be your light in the world. When they were taken weeping into exile, you promised through your prophets to bring them home to Zion, singing and laughing.

Salvation has come in your Messiah, Jesus, the one whose coming light your servant, John, bore witness to. Filled with your Spirit, Jesus came proclaiming good news for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, and the day of freedom to all who are bound. He was killed by the proud and powerful, but with your wonderful power you raised him to life. In his presence we are filled with expectant hope and joy, and eager to embrace your eternal covenant.

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 Katharina von Bora Luther, 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 musical score is written on five staves 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.

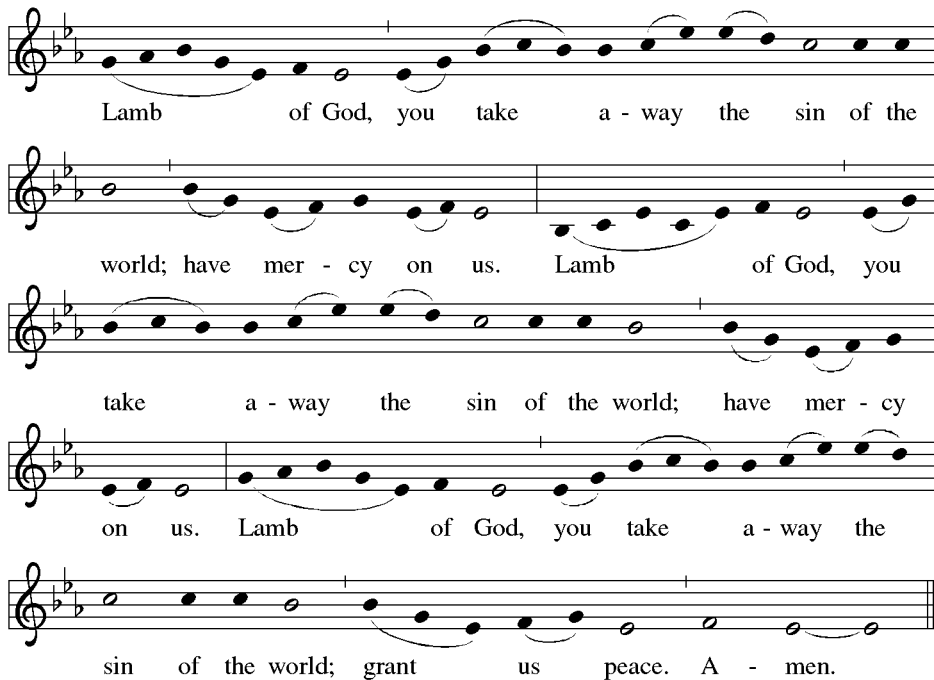
A Thanks be to God!

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lamb of God". It consists of five staves of music in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the fifth staff.

This Week's Commemorations

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, d. 1552

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

Communion Hymn

"He Comes to Us as One Unknown" Hymnal 737



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

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 ruler of the nations, come;
O Cornerstone that binds in one;
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.

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 ...*

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

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" (printed on next page) **Hymnal 244**

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

Blessing

P Go now, for you are chosen and sent in the Spirit. Pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. Be repairers of broken things. To all in need, bear witness that the time has come when the Sovereign One will save God's people.

And may God who gives peace make you holy in every way;
May + Christ Jesus clothe you with salvation and victory;
And may the Holy Spirit speak through you with the good news of hope.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Share the Good News!

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" arr. J. Wayne Kerr

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

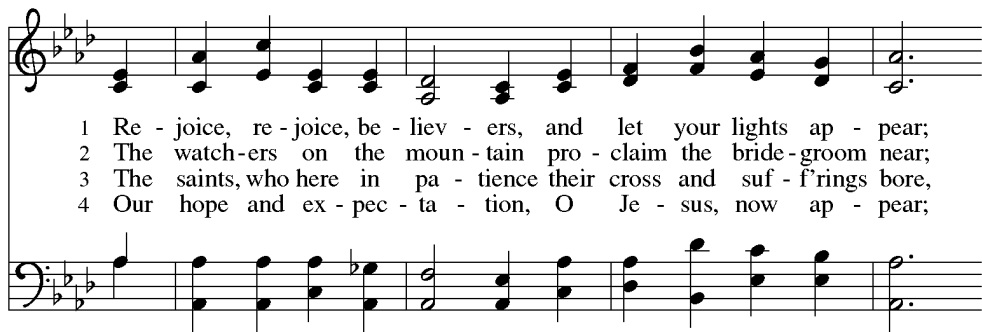
Refreshments today are provided by the Chatains.

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

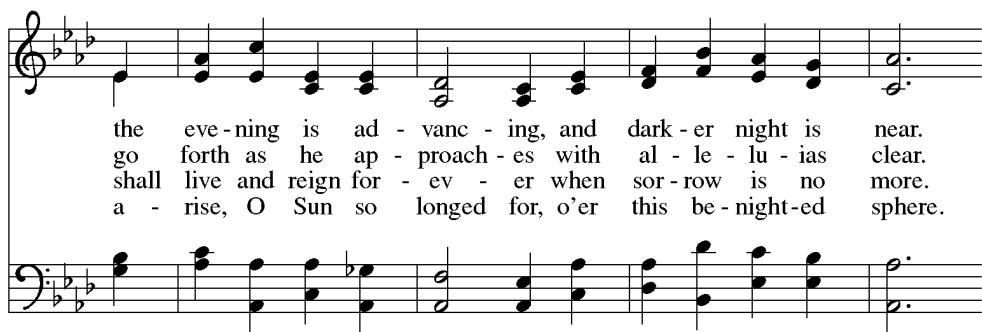
Serving in worship today...

Presiding Minister Pr. Keith Fry
Assisting Minister Caroline Nakic
Acolyte Chris Djuric
Lector Anne Heider
Communion Minister Susan Ross
Advent Wreath Lighters Jean Kantner & Kim Miller
Organist Laurie Stivers
Table Preparation TBA
Communion Bread Anne Heider
Ushers Joe and Terri Simchak

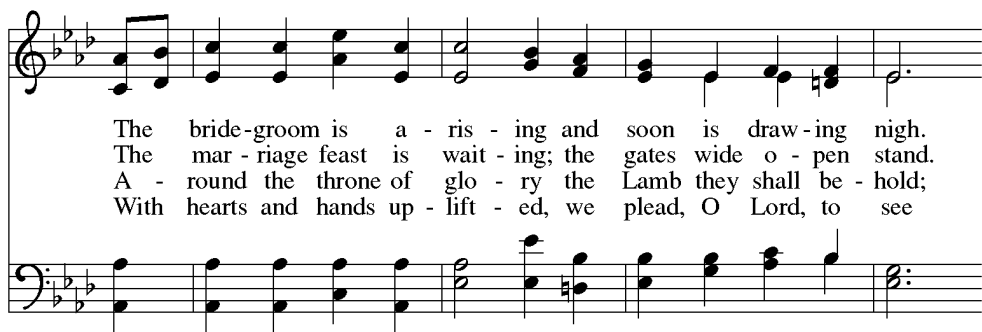
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Who Are You? Wisdom and Joy.

On a clear night, the sky starts to turn shades of rose an hour or so before sunrise. The colorful display isn't yet dawn, but it heralds the dawn. During any long wait or process there is usually a turning point, like quickening in a pregnancy—an encouraging sign that what we long for will soon come about. For ages in parts of Western Christianity, rose vestments have appeared on the third Sunday of Advent. Songs and readings lilt with joy. For the last thousand years monastic communities have added color to evening prayer through a set of beautiful verses for December 17 to 23. Many of us know these “O Antiphons” from the hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (ELW 257). Each day is a name (ending December 23 with O Emmanuel) for the promised Christ. Today’s name is Wisdom.

Today’s gospel illuminates John the Baptist, who is not himself the light but a witness to it. Religious gatekeepers ask him hostile questions: “Who are you?” “What do you say about yourself?” John shows wisdom not only in knowing who and what he is not (the Messiah, a prophet such as Moses or Elijah), but also in knowing who he is: the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.

Those same questions, without hostility, ask each of us throughout our lifetime to discern with wisdom who we are not, who we are, and what particular message and song God is calling us to voice. Baptized in water and Spirit, we rejoice with all generations in God our Savior, who casts down the mighty, lifts up the lowly, and fills the poor with good things. Mourners, given a garland instead of ashes, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, will repair ruined cities. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. “Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn” (ELW 723, refrain).

Upcoming Events at Immanuel

Wednesday, Dec. 20: Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

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

Sunday, Dec. 31: Worship with Lessons and Carols

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!**