



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2017

9:00 P.M.

Worship with Holy Communion

616 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201 • 847-864-4464 • www.immanuelevanston.org
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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 this evening! 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 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 ...*

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The writer of the Letter to Titus reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

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

Pre-Service Music

Pastorals by J.S. Bach and Franck

The Assembly stands and faces the rear doorway.

Dialogue

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

A **He is the Light no darkness can overcome!**

P At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

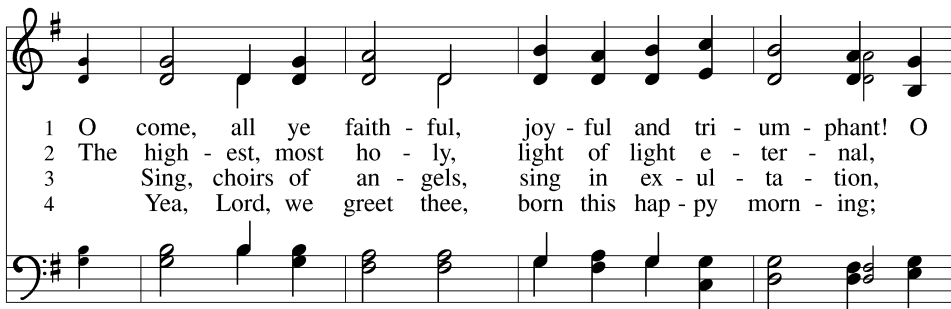
A **With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven!"**

P In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and dwells among us.

A **With the shepherds we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard!**



As the Processional Cross passes you during the singing of the carol, turn to face the altar.



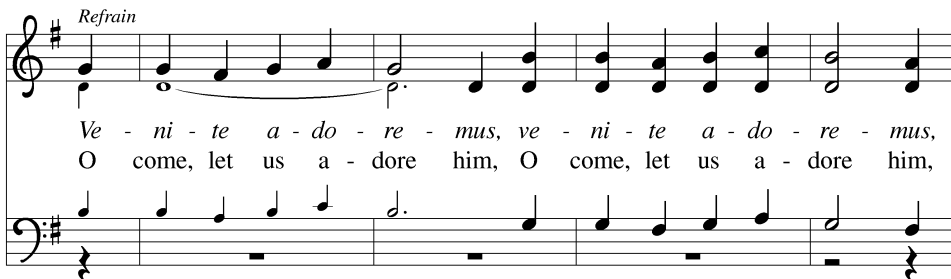
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



Refrain
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Greeting

P This night Christ is born to us! Alleluia! Alleluia!
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.

Song of Praise

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A **Amen.**

The Assembly is seated.

Welcome

Word: *God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song ...*

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 9:2-7

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

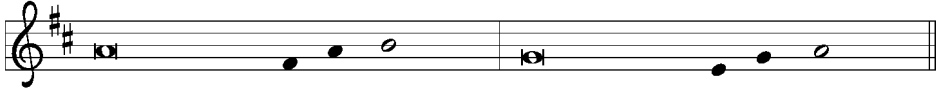
R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 96

ELW Psalm Tone 1

The right side of the Assembly will sing the lightface verses to the tone, and the left sings the boldface verses.



- ¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- |
ples with equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

R A reading from the Letter to Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

R Word of God, word of life!

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” [vv. 1 and 3 only] **Hymnal 270**

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

[cont.]

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" *[cont.]*

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

P The gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

Response to the Gospel

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" [vv. 1 and 4 only] **Hymnal 275**

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The Assembly is 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 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing,
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The Nicene Creed

L With the whole People of God, let us confess our faith.

**A We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the + resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

L This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

L We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it might proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer!

L We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer!

L We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer!

L We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death, remembering especially 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 [...]. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer!

L We bring to the manger all people who, like the Holy Family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. Lord, in your mercy,

A 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 Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer!

L We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer!

P Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

A Amen.

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of 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

"On Christmas Night" *arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Presentation of the Gifts

"The First Noël"

The first Noël the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël!
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heav'n and earth of naught
and with his blood salvation has wrought. *Refrain*

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

A Immanuel, "God with us":

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts,

help us to bless the lives of others

in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

The Assembly sings the boldface responses.

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

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened

the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry,

that be - holding the God made vis - i - ble,
 we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see.
 And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
 we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal p. 162

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

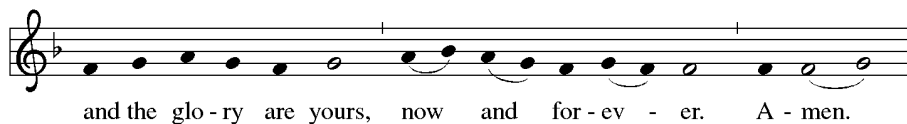
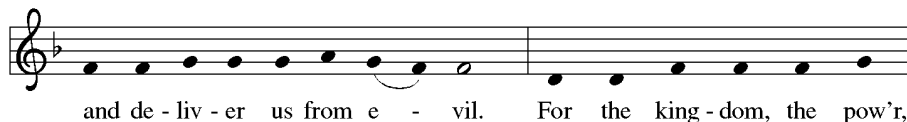
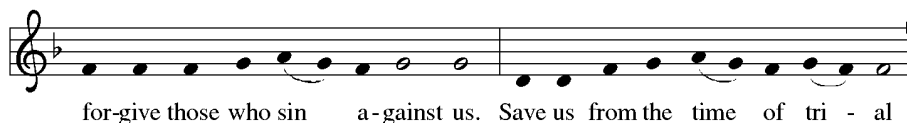
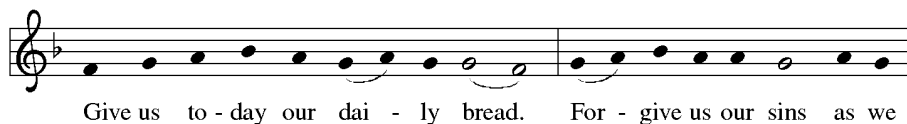
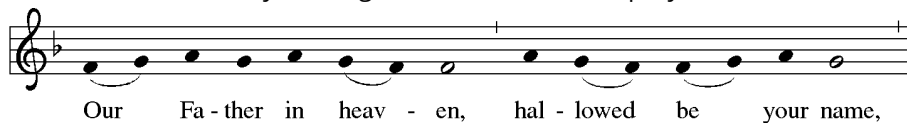
A Come, Holy Spirit!

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.



The Lord's Prayer

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



The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

L Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
 Let every heart receive your Savior.

A Thanks be to God!

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Assembly is seated. Please come forward as the ushers direct.

Please see the inside front cover for instructions concerning Holy Communion.

Communion Song

"Lamb of God" Hymnal p. 164

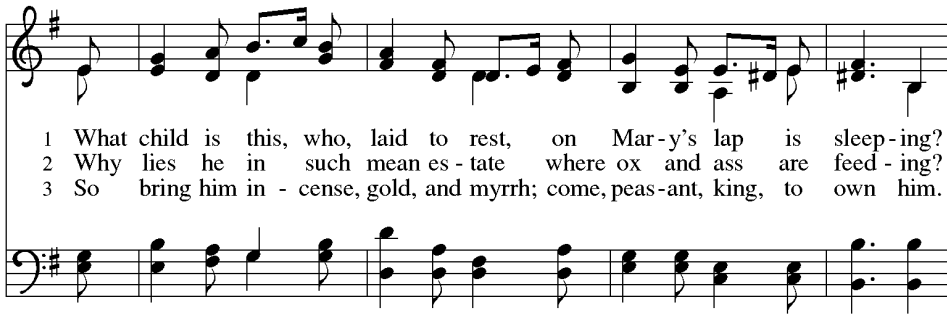
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Communion Song

"O, Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam

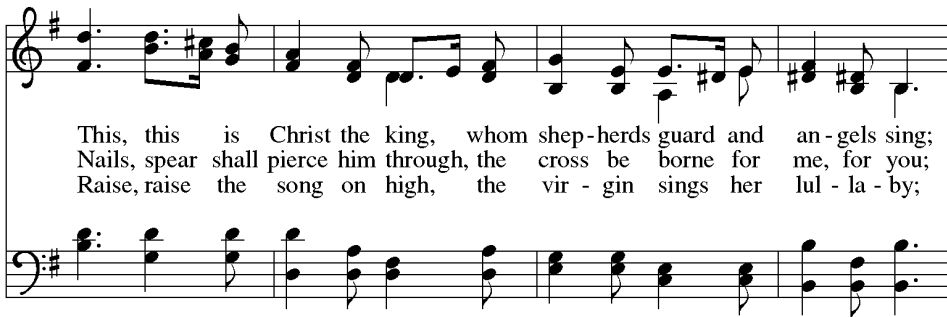
Ashlee Hardgrave, Soloist



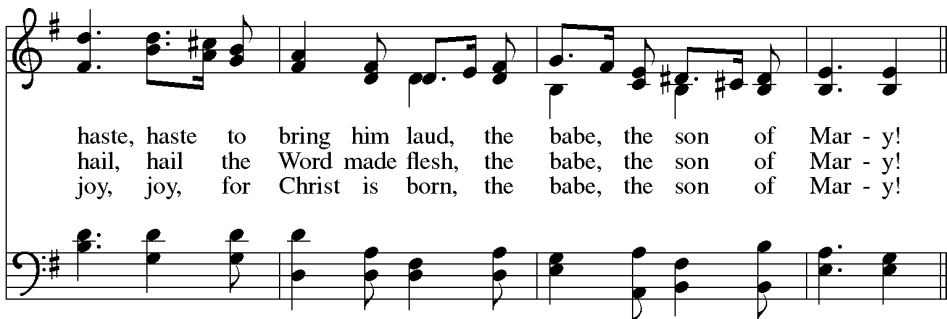
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

The Assembly stands when the Presiding Minister directs.

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

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" Hymnal 295



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have deem - been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
pect - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
A - men.

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

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

Carol

“Silent Night” **Hymnal 281**

The Presiding Minister lights a candle from the large candle that symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.

The ministers light candles from his candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle.

*You then pass your light to your neighbor. Lit candles should never be tilted, but **must** be held upright.*

The carol will be sung first in German by the Choir. The Assembly then joins in singing in English.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Blessing

P Go now, praising and glorifying God for all you have seen and heard. Rejoice in the Good News that God has come to dwell among us, and live in ways that show your thankfulness for God’s mighty acts.

And may the God of grace increase your joy;
 May + Christ Jesus be born as Savior within you;
 and may the Spirit, the Wonderful Counselor,
 make the Good News known to you and through you.

A Amen.

Sending Song

“Joy to the World” [printed on next page] **Hymnal 267**

Dismissal

L Glory to God in the highest!

A Peace to God’s people on Earth!

L Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Serving in worship tonight...

Presiding Minister.....	Pr. Keith Fry
Assisting Minister.....	Kim Miller
Acolyte.....	Olivia Knohl
Lector.....	Christine Imhoff
Communion Minister.....	Terri Hummel
Music Director.....	Jimmy Morehead
Organist.....	Greg Hummel
Guest Soloist.....	Ashlee Hardgrave
Table Preparation.....	TBA
Communion Bread.....	Scott Romans
Ushers.....	TBA

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Commemorations for the Week

Stephen, deacon and martyr Tuesday, December 26, 2017

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist Wednesday, December 27, 2017

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, as well as the three New Testament letters bearing his name.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Thursday, December 28, 2017

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Poinsettias at the altar are given by:

Marlene and Jacques Chatain in honor of family

Pr. Keith Fry in memory of the Rev. Norman W. Fry and of Evelyn Fry Aker

Alice and John Hancko in memory of Rose and John Hancko, and of Alice and Dewey Irgang

Anne Heider and Steve Warner in memory of Diethild Harrington

Greg and Terri Hummel in memory of their parents

Dorothea Jacobson-Wenzel to the glory of God

Doris Jean Kantner in memory of loved ones

Mary Ann & Mark Kearns in memory of Bill and Mallie Hopper and Donald Kearns

Hal & Lisa Larson in memory of Bob Larson, Harold and Maxine Larson, and Dave and Verlaine Riek

Chuck and Kim Miller *Gloria in excelsis!*

Kurt and Kathy Roderer to the glory of God

Susan and John Ross to the glory of God

Jim and Kathryn Skelton in honor of Verona Wilde

The Shearer Family to the glory of God

Elizabeth Stegner & Ernie LeVon in the name of Jesus

Hope Born in a World of Humbugs

Dressed up with presents, lights, TV specials, extra concerts, parties, and spending money, there is a sense that Christmas is the time to feel good, do good, and perhaps live a little better than the rest of the year. Even the most cynical get swept up in the idea that the world and their lives shine a little brighter. It is a sugar-coated holiday rush only to be met days later by an emotional crash. Yet these signs point to a deep-seated hope that is lodged in the hearts and minds of those moving into this season. There is a longing and fervent hope that God will enter in and counter the challenges and humbugs of our days and world. And to this longing and fervent hope we look to one who claims us from marginal lives and engages us in a central story of hope and promise.

Wrapped in every breath, song, and action is God's direct connection with the earth and her peoples. This night counters voices and theologies that view God as distant and unengaged with humanity and the world. From old, the promise of God drawing near has been uttered; in the gospel we witness the birth of God's yearning presence through a teenage girl; throughout we are invited to join the song of creation, hope, and salvation. Tonight we pulse with the exhilaration of Mary and the shepherds, and those who have lived at the margins, as we experience and proclaim, that "God dwells with us." While people may often talk of the "magic" of Christmas, it is our call to speak to the *incarnation* of Christmas. As people come together to hear a familiar story and sing familiar hymns, the blessing and challenge is to witness again to God's promise and promise-keeping with vitality and to join the chorus of joy in what God has done and continues to do in being made real among us.

Into the lights and presents, the music and gatherings, even the wars, poverty, little empires, and tumult of the world, God meets and claims us in that spirit of hope. God calls us to dream and live into a new reality as we encounter this babe at Bethlehem and find this Christ-child born in our lives again. Christmas speaks to our greatest longing, and turns the "humbugs" to carols of joy.

Upcoming Events at Immanuel

Sunday, Dec. 31: Worship with Lessons and Carols, 10:30 AM

Sunday, Jan. 7: Café Immanuel, 9:00 AM; Epiphany Worship, 10:30 AM

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!**