



Immanuel  
Lutheran  
of Evanston

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist  
December 23, 2018**

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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, 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 if you are able, and kneel at the altar rail, starting at the walls. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. (Gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) You may eat it immediately, then take the silver chalice and drink from it or, if you prefer, take a small cup from the tray. The cups in the outer ring contain wine. The cups in the center contain grape juice. As you return to your seat, place your empty cup in the trays provided at the ends of the front pews. 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 ...*

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the Blessed Virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the Eucharist—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

**P:** Presiding Minister   **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister   **R:** Reader   **A:** Assembly

+ All may make the sign of the cross.

### Pre-Service Music

"O, Savior of the Nations, Come" and "Magnificat"

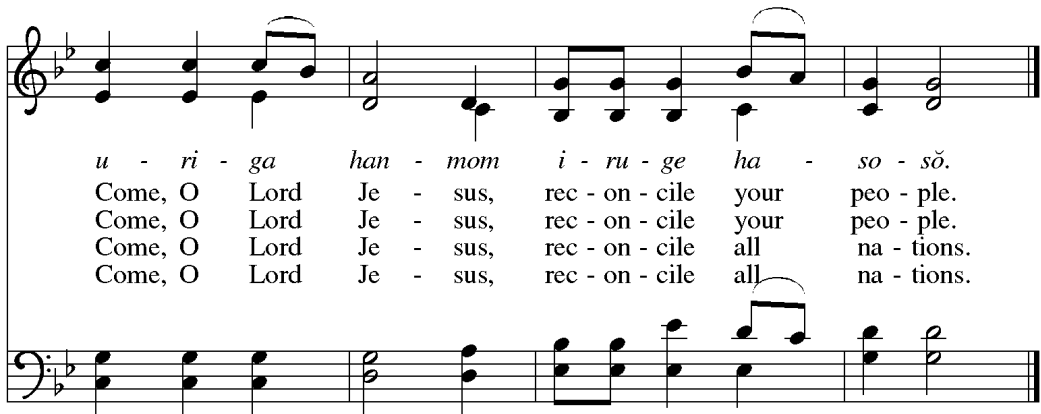
*Bach, Buxtehude, Walther, et al.*

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*As the candle is lit, the Assembly sings v.4.*



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



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

## Advent Wreath Prayer

L We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**A Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,  
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,  
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

**A Amen.**

P Let us come before God in confession.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P To you, O God,

**A we lift up our souls.**

**You know us through and through;**

**we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins;**

**remember us with your steadfast love.**

**Show us your ways;**

**teach us your paths;**

**and lead us in justice and truth,**

**for the sake of your goodness**

**in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

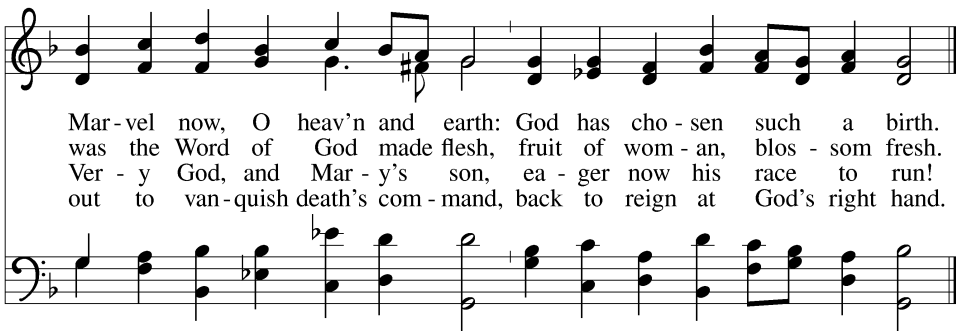
P Children of God, come with joy  
and draw water from the well of salvation.  
Remember the gift of baptism:  
your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus;  
you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.  
Stand up and raise your heads!  
The reign of God is near.

**A Amen.**

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



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

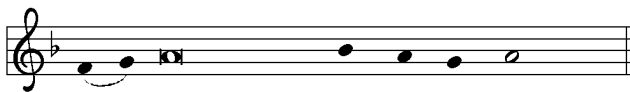
6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

### 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.**

**Kyrie** *The Leader sings the bids, and the Assembly sings the "Lord, have mercy" and "Amen":* **Hymnal p. 156**



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.



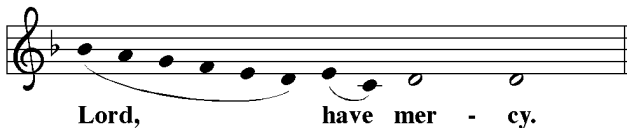
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



### Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

### Welcome and Announcements

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

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### Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

**Micah 5:2-5a**

R A reading from the Prophet Micah.

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

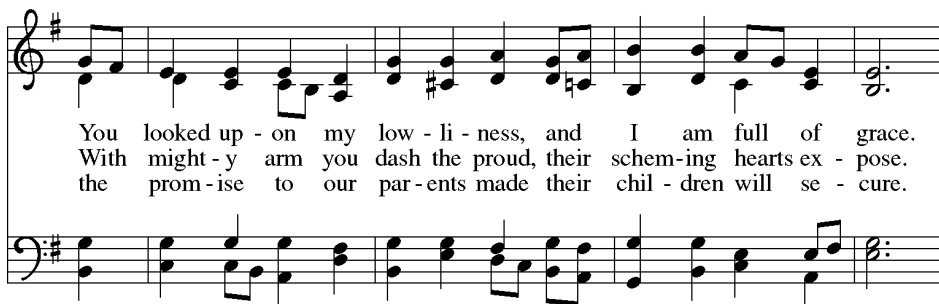
<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

R Word of God, word of life.

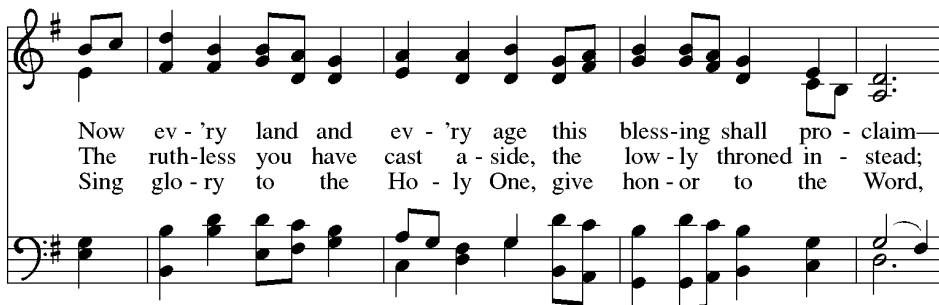
**A Thanks be to God!**



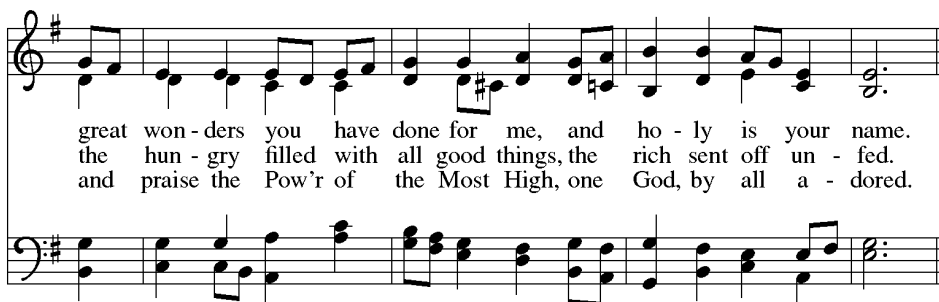
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom-ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.



R A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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*

Here I am, the servant | of the Lord. \*Let it be with me according | to your word.

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

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

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

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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****Time of Silence**

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

*During this time, you may want to meditate on one word or phrase from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.*

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



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 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. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## The Nicene Creed

L With the whole Church, let us profess 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 As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.
- L Faithful Lord, you keep your promises. Move your church to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Sara, our Council, and for all whom you have called here in your name. Teach us to sing of your faithfulness all our days. Hear us, O God.

**A Your mercy is great.**

- L Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath us, the water around us, and the sky above us. Hear us, O God.

**A Your mercy is great.**

- L Prince of peace, your sacrifice gives abundant life to all. Raise up leaders in every nation whose goals are health and well-being for all people and creation. Grant them wisdom and compassion to serve as you would have them serve. Hear us, O God.

**A Your mercy is great.**

- L Good Shepherd of Israel, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee. Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick. We pray especially for Serena Bernstein, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Judy Hokenson, Ron Laudert, Richard Lewis, the Nakic Family, Joe Skelton, John and Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts [...]. Send us in haste to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God.

**A Your mercy is great.**

- L Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Hear us, O God.

**A Your mercy is great.**

- 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 Hear us, O God.

**A Your mercy is great.**

- L Ever-living God, you are Alpha and Omega. We thank you for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, remembering especially the Blessed Martyr Stephen, the Blessed Apostle and Evangelist John, the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, and those saints known and dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of the Christ child. Hear us, O God.

**A Your mercy is great.**

- P Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 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** "Now Come, Redeemer of Us All" *Michael Praetorius*

**Presentation of the Gifts** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" **Hymnal 254**

*The Assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward and the Table is prepared.*



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

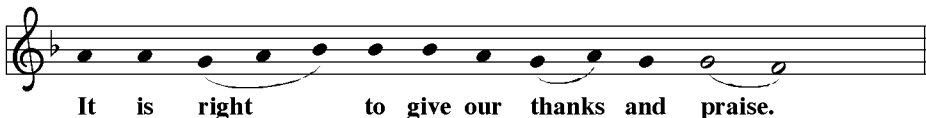
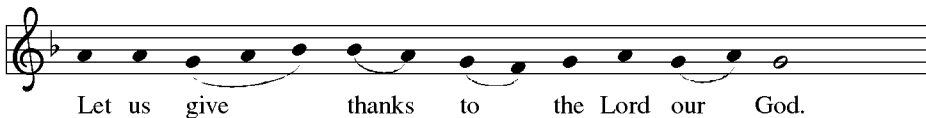
## Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

**A God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.  
Teach us patience and hope  
as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

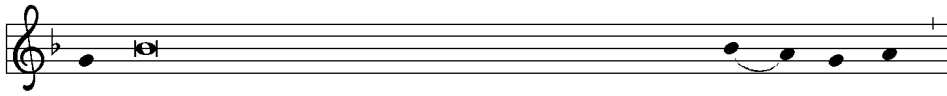
## The Great Thanksgiving

### Dialogue





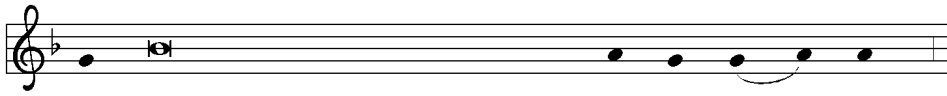
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



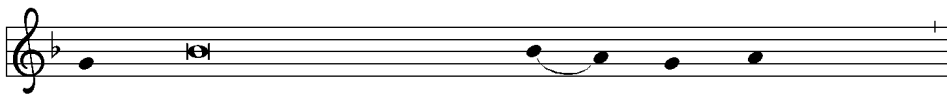
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



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



You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,



through whom you will also make all things new



in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.



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:



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.

**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. *All sing:*



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. *All sing:*



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

## The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray: *All sing:*



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 God fills the hungry with good things.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**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.  
See the inside front cover for instructions concerning Holy Communion.*

Communion Song

"Lamb of God" Hymnal 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

"Let the Broken Ones Be Healed" [to be sung as a round]

A B  
 Let the brok-en ones be healed. Let the lost be found and fed. Let the grace of God roll on. Let the  
 C  
 ri - ver rise and spread. Step in - to the stream with me. Let God's gra-cious pur-pose be!

*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

"Wait for the Lord" Hymnal 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, starting on G4 and moving through A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F#5. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody continues from the previous line, ending on G5. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff continues with accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.

## Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

A Amen.

## This Week's Commemorations

### Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

**Wednesday, December 26, 2018**

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

**Thursday, December 27, 2018**

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, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

### The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

**Friday, December 28, 2018**

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.

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

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**Sending of Communion**

P Let us pray. 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**

*"Joy to the World" (printed on next page) Hymnal 267*

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

**Blessing**

P Go now, with your hope in God's mercy for all God has promised you will be fulfilled. Trust God's strength for your safety. Walk in the ways of peace. Be ready to greet the coming Lord.

And may God our Savior look with favor upon you;  
May + Christ Jesus use his wonderful power for you;  
and may the Holy Spirit leap joyously within you  
and pour forth from you in songs of praise.

**A Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**A Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

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

*Refreshments today are provided by the Shearer, Litwin, and Larson Families.*

*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 .....	Kit McCarthy
Acolyte .....	TBD
Lector .....	Dana Barron
Communion Minister .....	Anne Heider
Music Director .....	James Morehead
Organist .....	Greg Hummel
Table Preparation .....	Kit McCarthy
Communion Bread .....	Linda Edlund
Ushers .....	TBD

# 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 rich - 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,

## The Magnifying Life

Mary sings, "My soul magnifies the Lord" (*Luke 1:46*). The word that is often translated "soul" can also be translated as "self" or "life." My self, the particularities of my being, magnify the Lord, she sings. My life, she says, has become like a magnifying glass with which you can see up close the details of God. This is true. God has chosen Mary because her life is like a telescope through which we can look to encounter the divine.

Mary is poor. Mary is female. Mary is young. Mary is powerless by worldly standards. Mary is found to be pregnant outside of marriage, an unacceptable state in her community, and spends several months of her pregnancy with Elizabeth and Zechariah, away from her home. Mary is lowly and vulnerable. We might not expect that God would choose someone so seemingly unremarkable to manifest God's work. Yet the particularities of Mary's specific life and soul and self are a magnifying glass with which we can better see God's activity in the world.

If you think that your own daily life is unremarkable, think again. You were created singularly by God. Adopted into the family of Christ through baptism, you are uniquely claimed and named to live out God's call for you in the world. As with Mary, the particularities of your identity, challenges, gifts, and strengths also work like a magnifying glass, showing up close the liberating presence of God. Your day-to-day life indeed magnifies the Lord! In what particularities of your life and the lives of people around you do you notice God at work? In what elements of your relationships, community, work, recreation, or spiritual practice do you encounter the divine? Let us each take note, and then sing with Mary, "My soul does indeed magnify the Lord."

## Upcoming Events

Monday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	9:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 28	Morehead Family Christmas Praise	7:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 30	Lessons & Carols with Eucharist	10:30 AM

## Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Keith Fry .....	Pastor
Sara Krentz.....	Congregation Council President
James Morehead .....	Music Director
Greg Hummel .....	Organist
Laurie Stivers .....	Associate Organist
Jane Kaihatsu.....	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 worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888**