



Second Sunday of Advent

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
December 8, 2019**

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 until 1:00 P.M. 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! Activity bags are available from the greeters. 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! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. If you would like your child to commune, please let the pastor know. At the direction of the usher, come forward if you are able, and kneel or stand 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 or near 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 ...

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the Righteous Judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that, in Christ, the Reign of God has come near. Today we also have the special joy of welcoming into official membership in this assembly two of our sisters, Diane Keely and Gloria Meldman.

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

Pre-Service Music Variations on "Lo How a Rose, 'ere Blooming" and "Comfort Ye My People"
Brahms, Bohm, and Bach

The Assembly stands when directed and turns toward the font.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Assembly sings v. 2 as the candles are lighted.



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



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



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.

Advent Wreath Prayer

L Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way,
for the kingdom of heaven is near.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be a light shining in the darkness
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
for he is our light and our salvation.

A Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

A Amen.

P Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

Gracious God,

A have mercy on us.

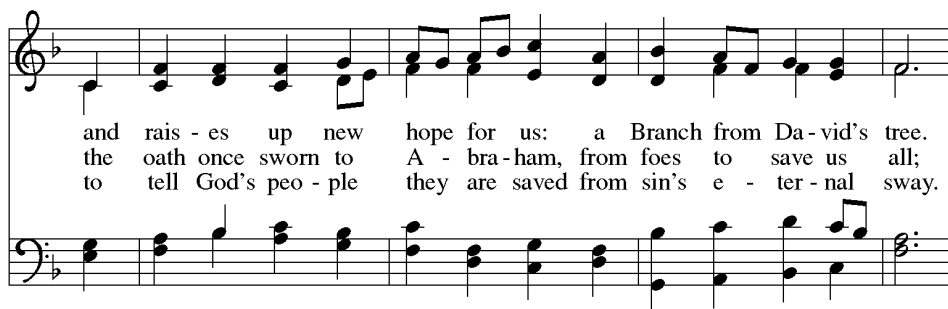
**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent.
In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.
Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

A Amen.



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

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

A Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 11:1-10

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the Spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

R Word of God, word of life.

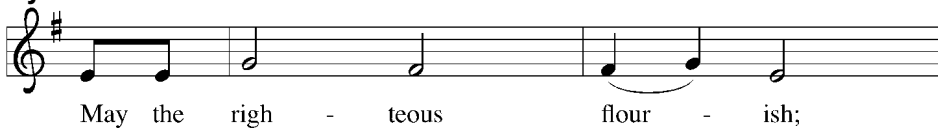
A Thanks be to God!

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 the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses.
 All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

Tone:



Refrain:



- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
 and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ²**that he may rule your | people righteously
 and the | poor with justice;**
- ³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
 and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
- ⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
 from one generation | to another.
- ⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
 like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- ⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- ¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
 you alone do | wondrous deeds!**
- ¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
 and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. R

R A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Prepare the way | of the Lord,* All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God.

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

A Glory to you, O Lord!

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

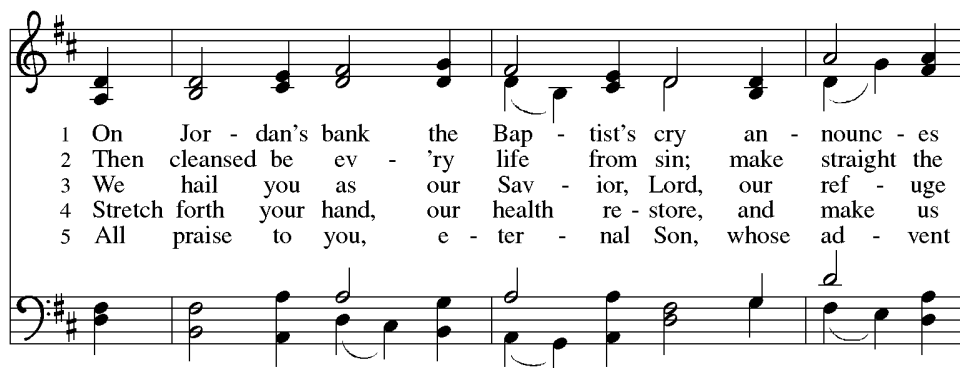
The Alleluia portion of the Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then seated.

Sermon**Time of Silence**

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word 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.

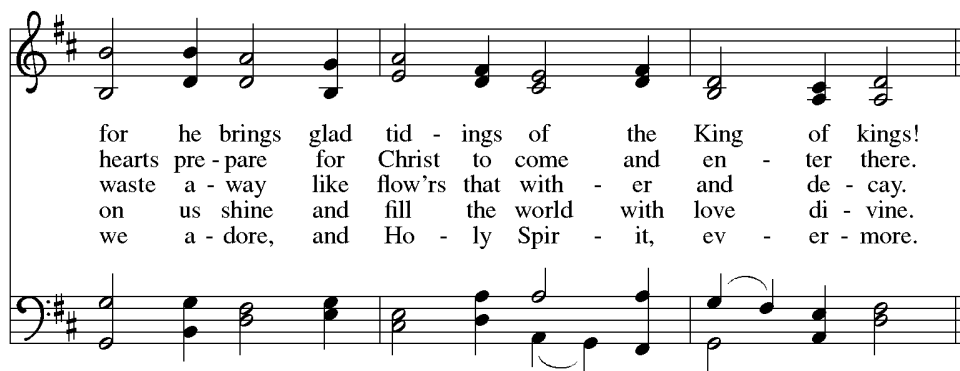
When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.



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



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



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

Affirmation of Baptism and Reception of New Members

Today we welcome Diane Keely and Gloria Meldman into official membership in the congregation.

Diane comes on affirmation of her baptism, and Gloria comes on transfer of membership.

P In baptism ...

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these sisters and brothers in their lives in Christ?

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

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

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

Prayers of the People

- L Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

The Assembly sings this response now and after each petition.



(Advent) Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.

- L God of promise, your reign has come near. We pray today for our bishops, Elizabeth and Yehiel; our pastor, Keith; our president, Sara; our Council; and for all the people you have assembled in your name. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems, that all life on earth may be sustained. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. We remember all those in any distress, especially the family of Ellen Abrahamson, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Margaret Carlson, the family of Lynn Carson, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Judith Kratochvil, Hal Larson, Ron Laudert, Richard Lewis, the Moy family, Tom Rowan, Andy Sheer, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...], Feed and heal all who are in need. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation. Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. We pray for Diane and Gloria, that you will empower them to love and serve you among us. We pray also for our process of discernment as we seek to know your will for identifying those who will lead this assembly in the coming year on our Council. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- 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. *[Response]*
- L God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death, remembering especially Lucy, martyr; and John of the Cross; that their witness to the gospel might serve as examples of living the life of faith. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- P Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

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

"Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" *Hugo Distler*

*Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen,
aus einer Wurzel zart,
als uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art,
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
Mitten im kalten Winter
Wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As prophets long have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

Presentation of the Gifts

"We Are Awaiting the Coming of Jesus"

The Assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward.



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.

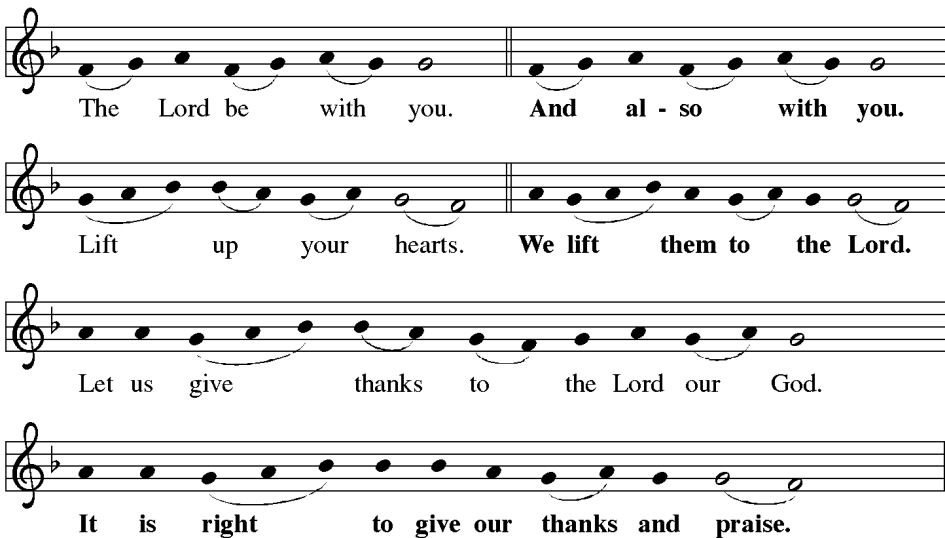
Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

**A 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



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 *The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:*

P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for your reign draws near with the promise of justice, peace and security for all. You created the earth and its inhabitants, and through the voice of the prophets crying in the desert, you called us to prepare the way for your coming to dwell among us. Through the scriptures, you spoke words of steadfastness and encouragement, filling us with hope in your visions of peace.

You came to us in your child, Jesus—the new branch—and baptized us with Holy Spirit and fire. Though he was killed, you raised him to life, and clothed him in righteousness and faithfulness so that as his reign dawns, justice may sprout on the earth, peace outlast the moon, and the knowledge of your marvelous grace wash over the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Therefore, with hearts full of gratitude, we sing joyfully, giving thanks to you, who are both Father and Mother to us, at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We join our voices with Lucy, John of the Cross, 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:

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.

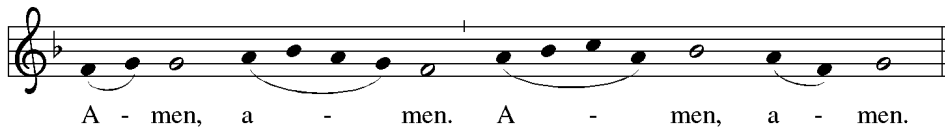
P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

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.



The Lord's Prayer

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



The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

L Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table! Feast at the banquet of hope and love!

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

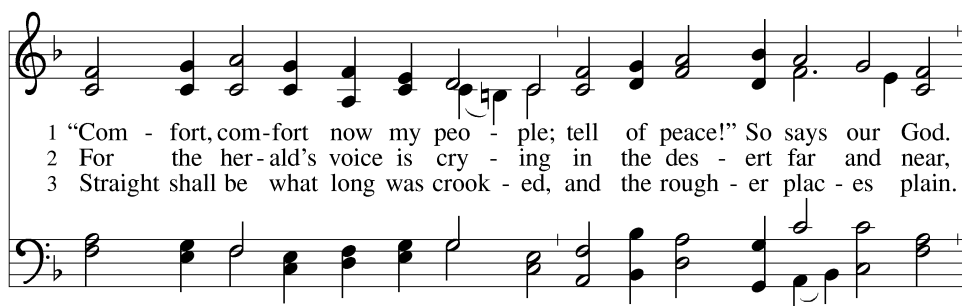
"Lamb of God" Hymnal p. 164

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 Communion Song "Lamb of God". It consists of five staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases connected by slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Communion Song

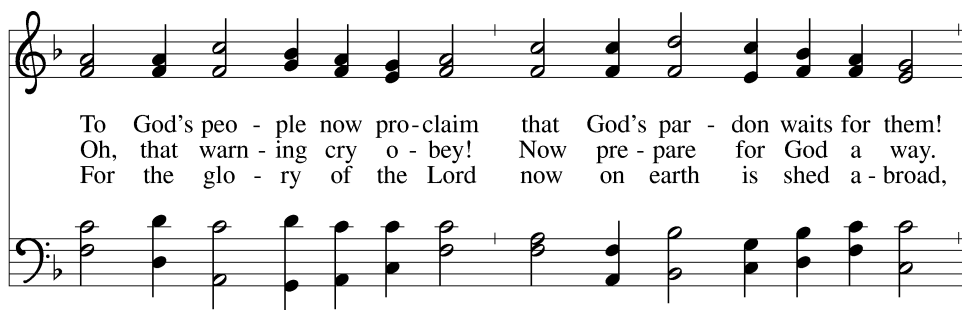
"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" Hymnal 256



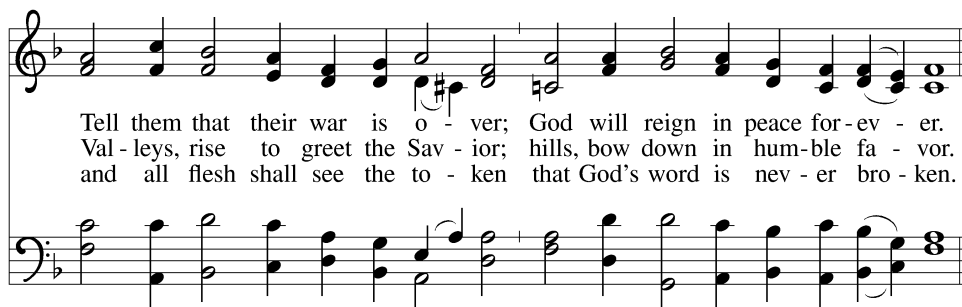
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



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



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



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

The Assembly stands when directed by the Presiding Minister.

Blessing after Communion

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

A Amen.



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-joice! Re-joice!
 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*

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

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

Sending of Communion

P Let us pray. Gracious God, you come to us in our darkest night, dawning on us as the Sun of Righteousness. May your light and hope dawn on our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound as we send bread and wine from this table to be shared with them. May it be to them a star shining in the night to show them your presence in the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, "God with us."

A Amen.

Sending Song "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" *[printed on next page]* **Hymnal 246**

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

Blessing

P Go now and prepare the way of the Lord. Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, and bear fruits worthy of repentance. Live as those who have caught the vision of the wolf and the lamb living together in peace, and live as those who do not hurt or destroy.

And may God grant you harmony with one another;
May + Christ Jesus fill you with all joy and peace in believing;
And may the Holy Spirit empower you and fill you with hope.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Christ is with you!

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude "O Lord How Shall We Meet Thee" *Brahms, Bohm, and Bach*

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

Refreshments are provided by the Ross Family.

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

Serving in worship today...

Presiding Minister.....	The Rev. Keith Fry
Assisting Minister.....	Anne Heider
Acolyte	Kit McCarthy
Lector	Linda Edlund
Communion Minister	Caroline Nakic
Organist	Greg Hummel
Music Director.....	James Morehead
Table Preparation	Kathryn Skelton
Communion Bread.....	Scott Romans
Ushers.....	Jim Rakowsky, Marlene Chatain
Advent Wreath Lighters	The Kloster Family

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

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- pect- 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!

This Week's Commemorations

Lucy, martyr, d. 304

Friday, December 13, 2019

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

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

Saturday, December 14, 2019

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

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Dec. 11	Advent Evening Prayer	7:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 13	Community Warming Center	2:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 15	Third Sunday of Advent	
	Adult Spiritual Growth: "Telling Our Stories"	9:00 AM
	Worship with Eucharist	10:30 AM
	Discernment	
	Council Meeting	12:30 PM
	New Community Church	1:00 PM
	Holiday Event	

Name Your Wilderness

Name your wilderness. Do not read on yet. Name it now, this moment. No one else needs to describe it for you. It is *your* wilderness. Aches. Burns. Howls. Shadows. Echoes. Fears. Shames. Hungers. Jeers. Memories. Futures. Scars. Catastrophes. Wastes. Falls. These may comprise your wilderness.

In Judea, the wilderness is dusty, dry, rocky, and hot. The land is rugged and steep, dangerous and threatening. But it is not a hopeless place. When the wadis, the dry valleys where the rivers run, fill up with rainwater, the brown, broiled-crisp hillsides dress in green, and flowers emerge as if scraps of rainbows have dappled the earth. In a seemingly desolate place, grace startlingly appears.

Name your wilderness.

John the Baptist was in the wilderness. He went there with a message. It takes courage to cry out to the occupiers of the wilderness with a vision of hope. He did it with nerve, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

The crowds were there from all regions. It seems they came hoping for hope. Naming their wilderness, the crowds found the courage to "repent, for the kingdom of heaven [had] come near."

"Repent": John's persistent refrain in the wilderness. He was "crying out," the gospel tells us, not whimpering or gently prompting. The word *repent* muscles and presses, carving a new path where all the other occupiers leave drought and ruin. The river Jordan flows in the wilderness; in its current the Spirit moves, the call "Repent!" carried in its quickening flow. The message is both warning and promise. In naming your wilderness, you discover not desolation but opportunity for new life. Name your wilderness. See the grace flower and spring into abundance. The one who is coming—the embodiment of the kingdom of heaven come near to us—offers repentance and grace.

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Keith Fry.....	Pastor
Sara Krentz.....	Congregation President
Linda Edlund.....	Congregation Vice President
Susan Ross.....	Congregation Secretary
Tom Couch, Greg Hummel, Melisa Larson, Kevin McDaniel, Scott Romans, Erik Shearer, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff.....	Congregation Council Members
Joe Simchak.....	Treasurer
Mary Ann Kearns.....	Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Stegner.....	Assistant Financial Secretary
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!**