



Third Sunday of Advent

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
December 15, 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 ...*

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in Word and Holy Supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God might open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

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

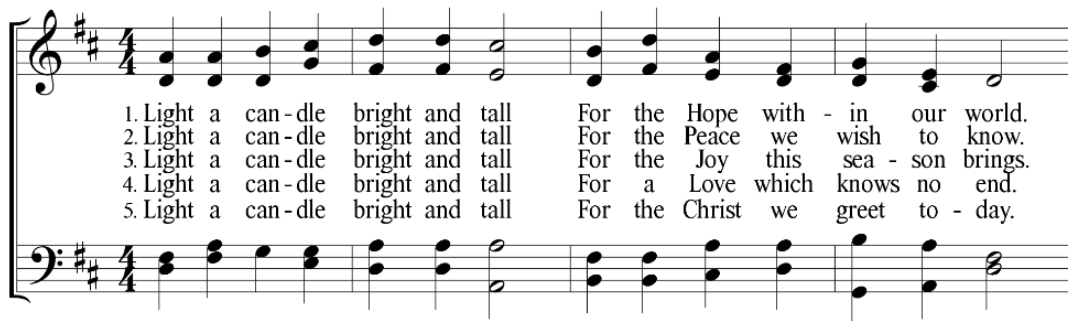
Pre-Service Music

Variations on Hymns of the Day

The Assembly stands when directed.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Assembly sings v. 3 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.
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May he give water to all who thirst,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

A Amen.

The Assembly turns toward the rear doors to face the font.

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.

A Amen.

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

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

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

Refrain

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

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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R Word of God, word of life.

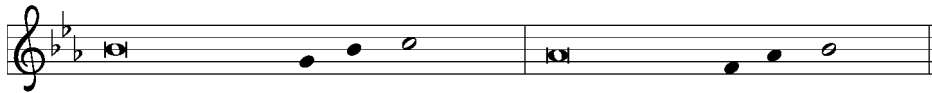
A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 146:5-10

ELW Psalm Tone 1

*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:



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
the LORD | loves the righteous. R**

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R**

Reading from the New Testament

James 5:7-10

R A reading from the Letter of James.

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

I am sending my messen- | ger before you,* who will prepare your | way before you.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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.

Hymn of the Day

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



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



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



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



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



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



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

Prayer for Discernment for Council Leaders

During the Offering, all baptized and confirmed members of the congregation will be asked to place their Council discernment forms in the offering plate as an act of worship.

Prayers of the People

- L As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are 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 For the church and its leaders, and for all who work for the unity of the gospel; 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; that the compassion of Christ break down all divisions, let us pray. *[Response]*
- L For the well-being of creation; for mountains and hills, lakes and rivers, snow and sunshine, plants and animals, and for all who care for the earth; that God raise up stewards to protect this good creation, let us pray. *[Response]*
- L For peace among nations; for those who lead all levels of government, for judges and magistrates, and for those who speak for the voiceless; that all be treated with equity and fairness, let us pray. *[Response]*
- L For those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned; and for those in any need, 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, Abby Grafe, Jennifer Grethe, Steven Hooper, 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 [...], that the compassion shown by Christ be embodied in caregivers and advocates, let us pray. *[Response]*
- L For those who gather for Word and Sacrament; for those who travel; and for our holiday preparations; that in all our activities we give thanks to the Lord, let us pray. *[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 Let us pray. *[Response]*
- L In thanksgiving for those who have died and are at rest, remembering especially Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church; that their witness to the gospel serve as examples of living the life of faith, let us pray. *[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

"The Yearning" Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Refrain: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

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.

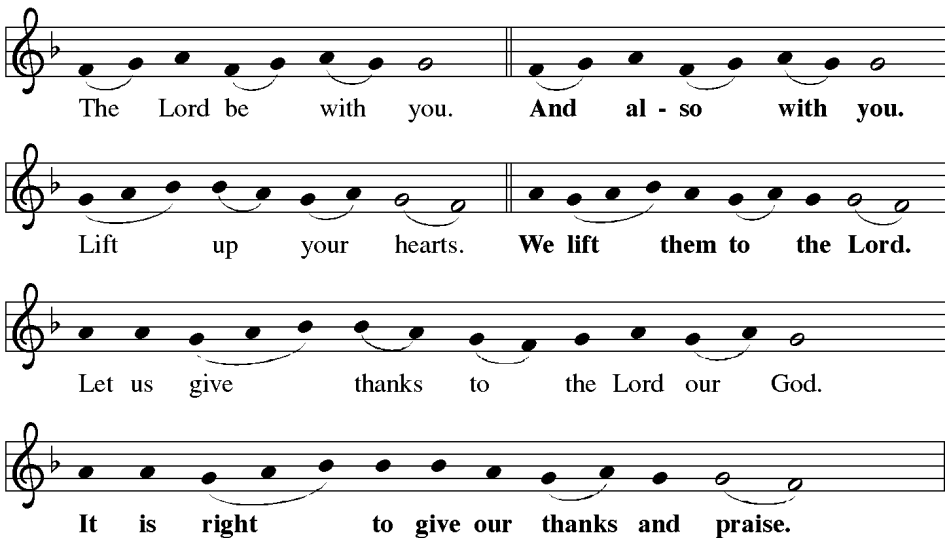
Offering Prayer

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



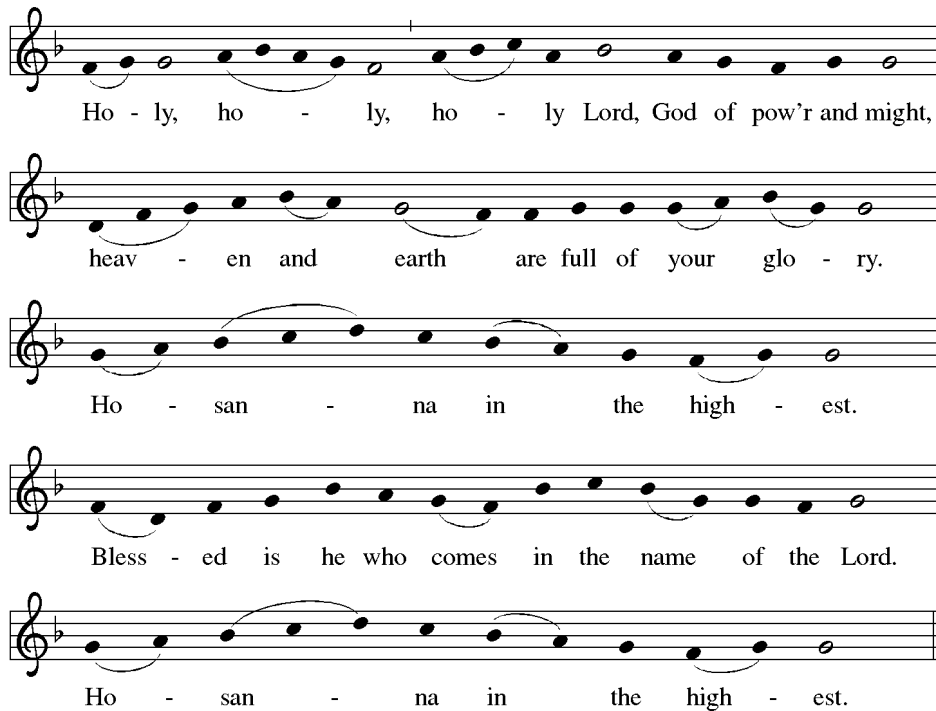
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface *The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:*

P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for your mercy embraces the faithful, one generation to the next. You are the creator of heaven, earth and the teeming seas. You promised mercy to our ancestors and sent prophets as an example of suffering and patience to prepare the Holy Way before of you.

In Jesus Christ we saw your promises take flesh as the blind saw the light, the deaf heard the music, and the lame danced with joy. When he was killed, you raised him to life and through him your Good News still comes to the poor like springs of water to thirsty ground, uplifting the downtrodden and filling the hungry from the richness of your table. And so with thankful hearts we patiently wait, knowing that the day is near when all the earth will see the fullness of your glory.

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 Katharina von Bora Luther, and with all your holy ones of all times and places. With earth and all its creatures, with sun, moon, and stars, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your Name, and join their unending hymn:



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.

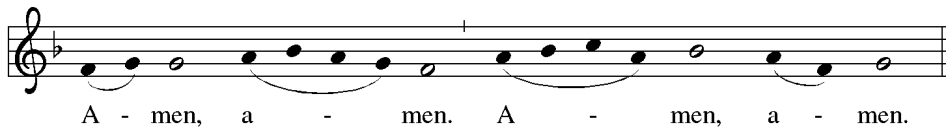
P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

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

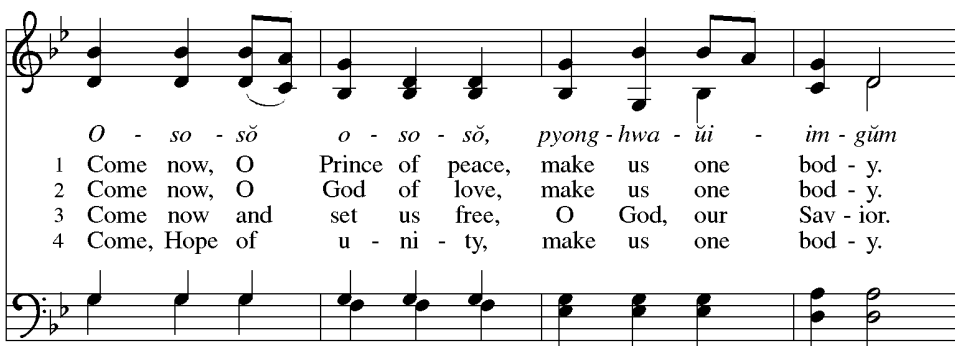
"Lamb of God" Hymnal p. 164

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.

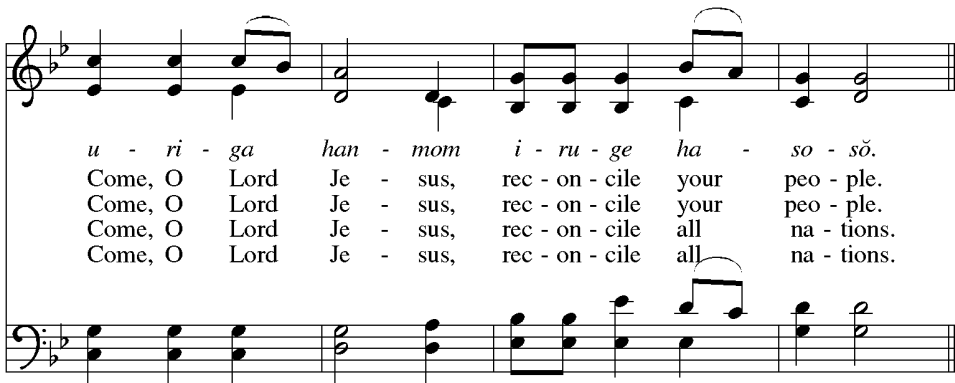
The image shows a musical score for the Communion Song "Lamb of God". It consists of five staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: "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 score ends with a double bar line.

Communion Song

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace: Ososǒ, ososǒ" Hymnal 247



O - so - sǒ o - so - sǒ, 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 - sǒ.
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.

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

"All Earth is Hopeful: *Toda la tierra*" [printed on next page] **Hymnal 266**

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 good news for the poor, and prepare the way for the Lord. Wait patiently. Do not grumble against one another, but encourage one another. Be strong and do not fear.

And may God come quickly to save you;

May + Christ Jesus give you everlasting joy and gladness;

And may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts and lead you on God's holy way.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Christ is with you!

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Robert Powell*

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

Refreshments are provided by Kim Miller and Jean Kantner.

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..... Kit McCarthy
AcolyteCaroline Nakic
Lector Stephen Warner
Communion Minister Anne Heider
Organist Laurie Stivers
Music Director.....James Morehead
Table Preparation..... Kim Miller
Communion Bread.....Anne Heider
Ushers..... Stephen Warner, Marlene Chatain
Advent Wreath Lighter..... Tyler Heyl

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
 "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
 será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
 con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
 nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
 Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
 y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

This Week's Commemorations

Las Posadas

Monday, December 16, 2019

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

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

Friday, December 20, 2019

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age 24 she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. She then married Martin Luther. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Katie's thinking and her counsel had a significant influence in Martin's life and thought.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Dec. 18	Three Crowns Service	11:00 AM
	Advent Evening Prayer	7:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 20	Community Warming Center	2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 21	Indoor Farmers' Market	8:30 AM
Sunday, Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	Adult Spiritual Growth: "Telling Our Stories"	9:00 AM
	Worship with Eucharist	10:30 AM

A Change in Tone

John the Baptist, just last week crying out in the wilderness with a voice unmistakable and bold, has dramatically changed his tone. Now imprisoned by Herod, he has abandoned his confident pitch that pulsed at the river Jordan's banks. His confidence tottering and proclamation fading, John now implores about his cousin Jesus, "Is he the one?"

A stream of hope had run through the crowds on the Jordan's banks. It had flowed through those who rushed from the water, dripping with baptismal verve and ready for the Kingdom of Heaven John announced. But now it was drying up. John was filled with misgivings, his hope having evaporated inside the prison walls.

Where is justice for the prophet? What of mercy for John? A prison cell was his reward for proclaiming heaven's kingdom come, for unlocking a conclusive truth at the portals of a warping empire. Malicious bars of injustice imprisoned him, hammered in a forge of vengeance: this man called by God, the first of two miracle children born of wonder foretold by angels, the ascetic in the desert, arouser of hope, baptizer of Jesus himself—held in chains! All the glowing hope looked to be a fading tale told by a disappointing martyr.

Life. Who has lived it and managed to escape injury and heartache of expectations lost, fair due denied, the prize withheld? We each experience tragedies immense and minute, discouragements that sting and pass, despair that aches and endures. How thin the air of promise can feel.

Jesus offers transcendent hope when he answers John. It is hope that sees beyond short-sighted optimism, hope that prevails against searing evidence to the contrary, hope that exceeds the pace of setbacks and remains persistent when, like John, we cannot help but ask, "Are you the one . . . , or are we to wait for another?" It is Advent hope.

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!**