



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
December 22, 2019**

616 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201 • 847-864-4464 • www.immanuelevanston.org
E-mail: Church: immanuel@immanuelevanston.org • Pastor: pastor@immanuelevanston.org
• Parish Administrator: parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org

Welcome!

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.
We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.
We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.**

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card, 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 ...*

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel reading is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, "God-with-us." During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the "O Antiphons," ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and 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" *Bach, et. al.*

The Assembly stands when directed and turns toward the font.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Assembly sings v. 4 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.
In your Son, Emmanuel,
you have shown us your light
and saved us from the power of sin.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Increase our longing for your presence,
that at the celebration of your Son's birth
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,
for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

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.

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.

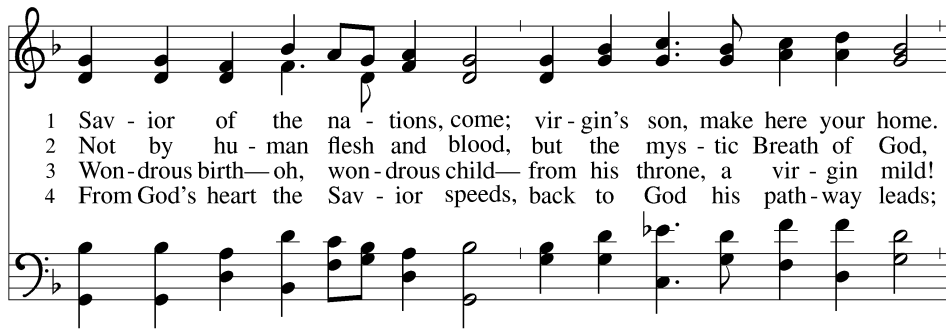
**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,**

things we have done and things we have failed to do.

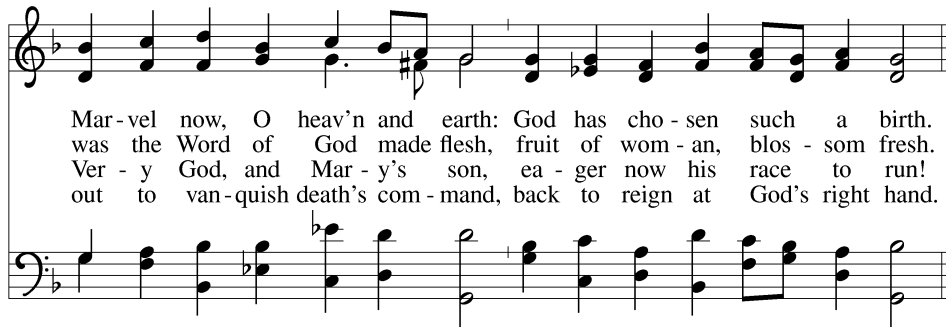
**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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 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.

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 7:10-16

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God with us!

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

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:



Let your face shine up - on us, and we shall be saved.

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn. [cont.]**

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
 the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
 give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

Reading from the New Testament

Romans 1:1-7

R A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The virgin shall conceive and- | bear a son,* and they shall name | him Em- manuel.

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

A Glory to you, O Lord!

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus."

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 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



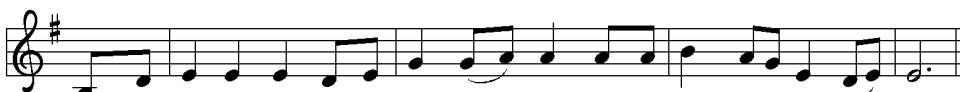
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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 Hear your church, O God, as we pray for all who belong to Jesus Christ; 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. Where the church is scorned, preserve it; where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L Hear your earth, O God, as we pray for its healing and care. Protect the grapevine and the mighty cedar, the mountains and seas and all that is in them. Give life, that all life may call on your name. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L Hear the nations, O God, as we pray for those who hold power and authority over people and lands. Help those who create and uphold good laws and those working to reform what is unjust, that the world might better reflect your grace. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L Hear those in need, O God, as we pray for all who face uncertainty: refugees and immigrants, those who are imprisoned, and those without work, housing, food, or health care. We pray especially today for 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, Judith Kratochvil, Hal Larson, Ron Laudert, Richard Lewis, Tom Rowan, Andy Sheer, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...], Bring good news to all in need of hope. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- L Hear this community of faith, O God, as we pray for families and friends who gather in this season, for travelers and hosts, and for those who will work or serve others this Christmas. Let the peace of Emmanuel, God-with-us, shine in every heart. 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 Hear all who mourn, O God, as we remember the lives of our beloved dead, remembering especially Stephen, deacon and martyr; John the Apostle and John the Evangelist; and the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem. Encourage the living to learn from our ancestors in faith as we follow your call. Hear us, O God. *[Response]*
- P You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

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 Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem" *Pr. Royce Scherf, arr. Richard Wienhorst*
Dana Barron, Flute
Laura McDaniel, Djembe
James Morehead, Chimes

The hills are bare at Bethlehem, no future for the world they show;
yet here new life begins to grow, from earth's old dust a greenwood stem.
The stars are cold at Bethlehem, no warmth for those beneath the sky;
yet here the radiant angels fly, and joy burns new, a fi'ry gem.
The heart is tired at Bethlehem, no human dream unbroken stands;
yet here God comes to mortal hands, and hope renewed cries out: "Amen!"

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

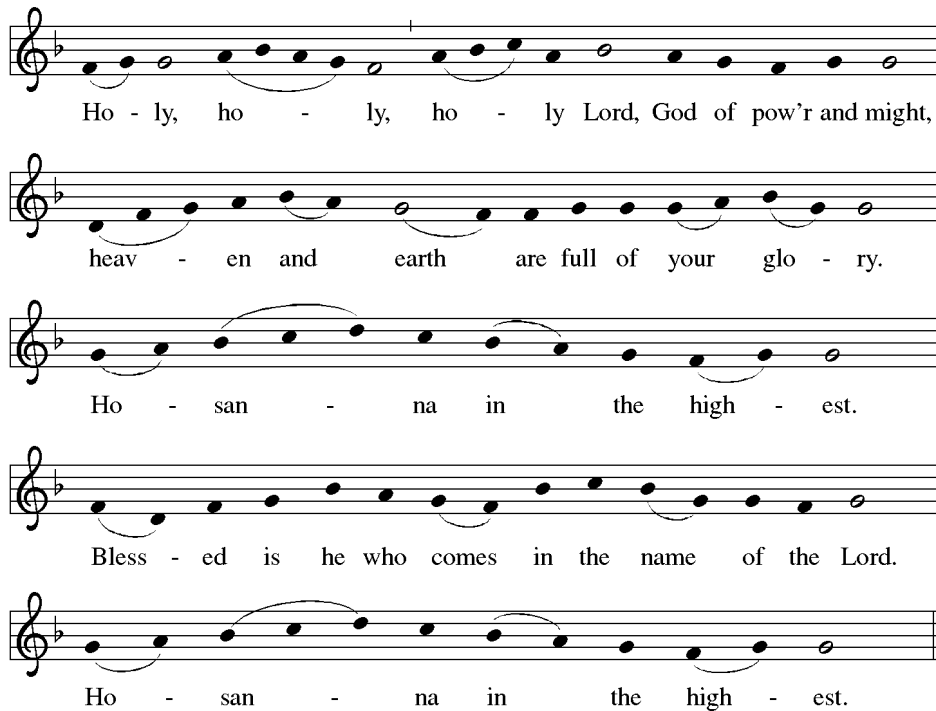
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface *The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:*

P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you rest your hand upon us calling us to be your holy saints and giving us life again. Before time began, your Holy Spirit brooded over the chaos and brought the earth and its inhabitants to birth. Through your prophets speaking in the holy scriptures you promised us a child, born as a sign of your saving presence with us.

Your promise has taken flesh in your child, Jesus the Christ, who was born of the line of David. When he was killed by your enemies, your Spirit brought him forth again by resurrection from the dead. Through him the light of your presence has been restored and we have been called into the obedience of faith that we might belong to Jesus Christ forever, living by the hope conceived in us by the Holy Spirit.

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 the blessed martyr Stephen; John the Apostle and Evangelist; the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, 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.

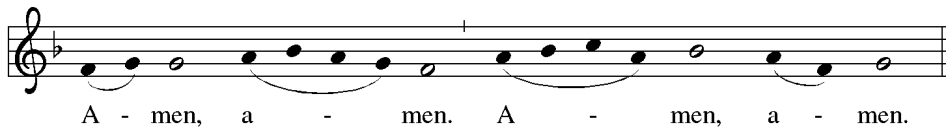
P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

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 hymn "Lamb of God" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence at the end of the fifth staff.

Communion Song

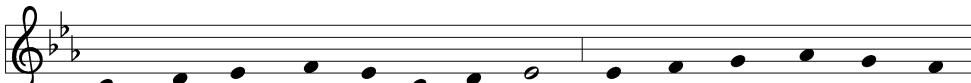
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Hymnal 295




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



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



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



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



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

The Assembly stands when directed by the Presiding Minister.

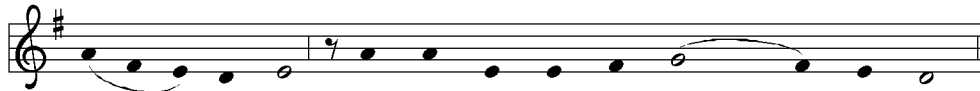
Blessing after Communion

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

"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 and live by the hope conceived within you. Refuse evil and choose good. Call on the name of the Lord. Walk with God in faithful obedience, and do not fear public disgrace.

And may God be with you;

May + Christ Jesus save you from your sins;

And may the Holy Spirit restore to you the light of God's presence.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Christ is with you!

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Magnificat" *Bach et al.*

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

Refreshments are provided by the Jacques and Marlene Chatain.

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.....	Caroline Nakic
Acolyte	Scott Romans
Lector	Dana Barron
Communion Minister	Anne Heider
Organist	Greg Hummel
Music Director	James Morehead
Musicians.....	Dana Barron, Flute; Laura McDaniel, Djembe; James Morehead, Chimes
Table Preparation	Kim Miller
Communion Bread.....	Linda Edlund
Ushers.....	Terri Hummel, Stephen Warner
Advent Wreath Lighters	Fran Bushhammer and Scott Romans

Joy to the World

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

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

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

This Week's Commemorations

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Thursday, December 26, 2019

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 Friday, December 27, 2019

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 Saturday, December 28, 2019

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.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	9:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Blessed Christmas! [no service]	
Friday, Dec. 27	Community Warming Center	2:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 29	First Sunday of Christmas	
	Adult Spiritual Growth: "Telling Our Stories"	9:00 AM
	Worship with Lessons and Carols, with Eucharist	10:30 AM
	Caroling to Shut-ins	2:30 PM
	Dinner at Laurie Stivers' home to follow	

Where Mercy is Courage

There is a starched-spine courage in what Joseph did—courage that risks public derision. There is tender courage needed for Joseph to be gentle with an abrasive truth, to face shame for the sake of another’s honor. There is a willing-to-be-wrong courage revealed by Joseph, who dares to believe an improbable dream.

Before any innkeepers’ doors shuttered along Bethlehem’s still streets, before a cattle stall doubled for a nursery or shepherds abandoned their flocks to a sky full of angels, before the silent night broke into something joyful and triumphant and herald angels sang glory, there was quiet, courageous mercy in Nazareth.

To be merciful to Mary, who Joseph must have believed had betrayed him; to be merciful to a community that, of course, would ridicule him; to be merciful in the face of a future that appeared forever spoiled—this demanded courage. Mercy will forever require courage. All Joseph had to proceed with was the mind-boggling gift of the phrase announced to him: “Do not be afraid.”

Many are the regrets that harrow us, not for what we have done but for what we have failed to do; not for where we wandered but for where we refused to venture; not for what we chanced but for what we guarded, all because we have been afraid. Fear binds us from acting with mercy and courage.

“Do not be afraid” is God’s constant refrain, beginning with scripture’s earliest stories in Genesis and continuing until the Bible closes in Revelation: “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last” (*Rev. 1:17*). God’s empowering litany gives merciful courage to Joseph in a dream and to shepherds in the fields. It is found in the miracle of Bethlehem, the merciful Word born in Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid!

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!**