



First Sunday of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist

December 29, 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 ...*

It's still Christmas! Our celebration of the birth of Jesus continues for a full twelve days, ending with the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, the day on which we celebrate the "appearing" of the Word made Flesh among us. Today, there is no sermon as we allow the words of the prophets and the Good News speak to us through word and song. We sing out our joy as we hear once more the prophecies and the narratives of Advent and Christmas, now brought together in the person of the Baby of Bethlehem. And today we remember the strong name of Jesus, born to set us free. Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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

Pre-Service Music

"Noëls" D'Aquin

*The Assembly stands when directed, as you are able. Please turn to face the rear doorway.
Please turn toward the cross as the procession passes you.*

Gathering Carol

"Once in Royal David's City" **Hymnal 269**

Dialogue

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

A **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty,

A **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

A **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A **Jesus Christ is the light of our lives.**

P Sing to God a new song!

A **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

Greeting

P Christ the Lord has come to dwell with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A **And also with you!**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Eternal One, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A **Amen.**

The Assembly is seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The First Lesson: *The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One*

Isaiah 11:1-10

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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

The 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.

His 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;
but 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.

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

The 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.

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

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

They 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.

On 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 Here ends the reading.

Carol

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" [v.3 sung a cappella] Hymnal 272

The Second Lesson: *The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem*

Micah 5:2-5a

R A reading from the Prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

R Here ends the reading.

Carol

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem” **Hymnal 279**

The Third Lesson: *The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary*

Luke 1:26-38

R A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

R Here ends the reading.

Carol

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” **Hymnal 265**

The Fourth Lesson: *An angel appears in a dream to Joseph*

Matthew 1:18-25

R A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Now 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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

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

R Here ends the reading.

Carol

"In the Bleak Midwinter" **Hymnal 294**

The Fifth Lesson: *St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-7

R A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

R Here ends the reading.

Carol

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" **Hymnal 276**

The Sixth Lesson: *The angels appear to the shepherds*

Luke 2:8-21

R A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

R Here ends the reading.

Carol

"Cold December Flies Away" **Hymnal 299**

The Seventh Lesson: *The Wise Ones are led by the star to Jesus*

Matthew 2:1-11

R A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

R Here ends the reading.

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

R A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

R Here ends the reading.

Carol

"The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem" LBW 61

The words to this carol are by Pr. Royce Scherf, former pastor of Immanuel.

The Assembly stands.



1 The hills are bare at Beth - le - hem, no fu - ture for the
 2 The stars are cold at Beth - le - hem, no warmth for those be -
 3 The heart is tired at Beth - le - hem, no hu - man dream un -



world they show; yet here new life be - gins to
 neath the sky; yet here the ra - diant an - gels
 bro - ken stands; yet here God comes to mor - tal



grow, from earth's old dust a green - wood stem.
 fly, and joy burns new, a fi - 'ry gem.
 hands, and hope re - newed cries out: "A - men!"

The Nicene Creed

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

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

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

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the + resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

L Gathered with all who seek the Christ Child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

L Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. We pray for bishops, Elizabeth and Yehiel; for our pastor, Keith; for our president, Sara; for our Council; and for all those you have gathered here in your name. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way, remembering especially Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Margaret Carlson, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Steven Hooper, Hal Larson, Ron Laudert, Richard Lewis, the Moy family, Elaine Nelson, Tom Rowan, Andy Sheer, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we may be present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.

L Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence, remembering especially Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

P Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

A And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of 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.

Offering *An offering is gathered for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.*

Offering Music

Presentation of the Gifts

"The First Noël"

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

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

Refrain

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

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

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

**A Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue *The Assembly sings the boldfaced responses.*

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

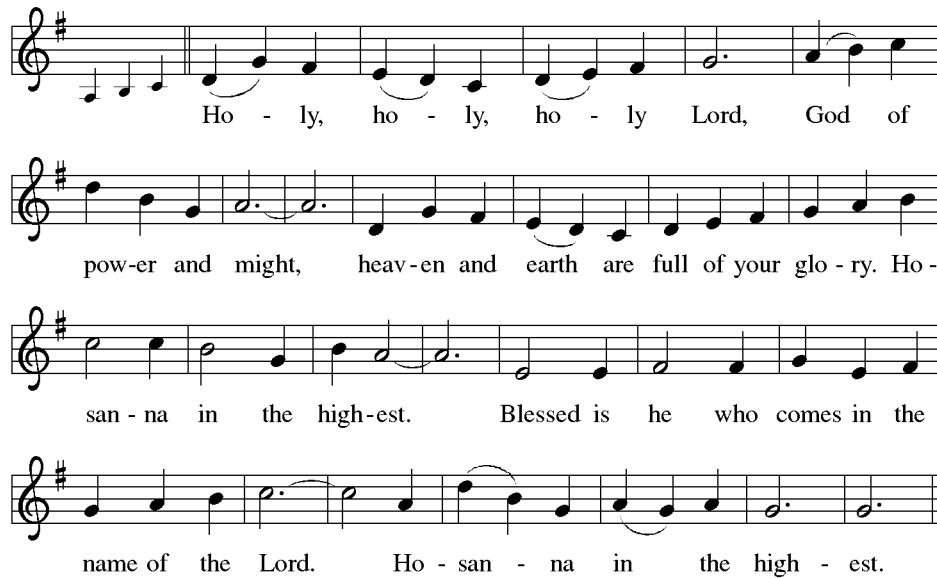
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface *The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:*

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened
the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry,
that be - holding the God made vis - i - ble,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

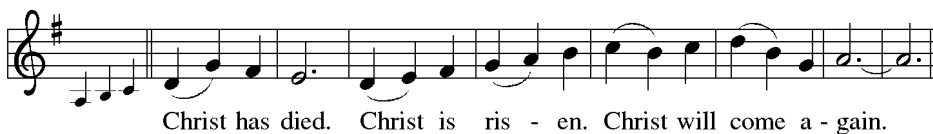
Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

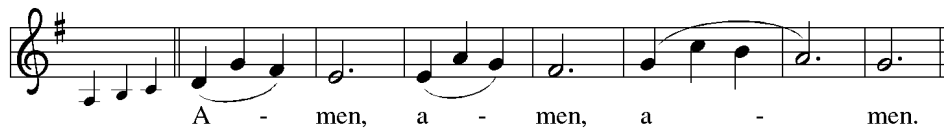
P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

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: *All sing.*



The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

L Love has come, God's love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you!

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. 112

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, grant us peace.

Communion Song

"That Boy Child of Mary" Hymnal 293

*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.

Post-Communion Song

"Love Has Come" Hymnal 292

1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -
Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.
hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the
you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

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.

Blessing of Caroling Books

Sending Song

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!" **Hymnal 288**

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

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you,
look with love upon you, be gracious,
and cause his face to shine on you with peace!

A Glory to Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit!

**The Savior close beside us,
God's love from harm to hide us,
the Spirit's pow'r to guide us
evermore!**

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Christ is born for you!

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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

Refreshments are provided by Anne Heider and Steve Warner.

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.....	Scott Romans
Acolyte	Kit McCarthy
Communion Minister	Susan Ross
Organist	Greg Hummel
Music Director.....	James Morehead
Table Preparation	Kathryn Skelton
Communion Bread.....	Anne Heider
Ushers.....	Nicolai Schousboe

This Week's Commemorations

Name of Jesus

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, d. 1872

Thursday, January 2, 2020

A nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor, Loehe worked to enliven the church with the eucharist at its center, from which would flow evangelism and social ministry. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Dec. 29	Caroling for Shut-Ins	2:30 PM
Thursday, Jan. 2	Daytime Quilters	10:00 AM
Friday, Jan. 3	Community Warming Center	2:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 5	Café' Immanuel	9:00 AM
	Feast of the Epiphany (<i>Observed</i>)	10:30 AM
	Worship with Eucharist	
Saturday, Jan. 11	Indoor Farmers' Market	8:30 AM

Home for the Holidays

“Did you celebrate Christmas at home this year? As Perry Como popularly sang, our culture tells us that “there’s no place like home for the holidays.” Yet, not everyone has a place that feels like home. While some people have lived in the same town or even in the same house for many decades, others have moved year after year, or find “home” to be unsafe or precarious. Still others have had to leave home behind under threat of violence, natural disaster, or political persecution.

Today, Matthew’s gospel reminds us that Jesus’ life was marked more by movement and displacement than by a settled existence. Even shortly after his birth, Jesus faced threats that caused his family to flee their home and country. Later in his life, Jesus warned an eager would-be follower about the risks of a life of discipleship, saying, “The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (*Matt. 8:20*). But Jesus’ goal was not to find home for himself; instead it was to become a resting place for those who struggle to find one in this world.

In this Christmas season, the story of Jesus proclaimed in Christian assemblies calls us to look around for those who feel unwelcome in this world. We are called to seek out those who have no home, or who have lost their home in physical or emotional ways. How is your community serving those without a home? Is there a homeless shelter in your community, a youth refuge, or an organization that assists refugees and asylum seekers? Led on by our God who often had no comfortable resting place, the Christian community is called to witness to the home we experience in Christ’s love by serving those who seek one.

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!**