

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13th, 2020

Zoom Service 10:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Prelude Prepare the Royal Highway, ELW 264

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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting


Sing verse 3 as the candle is lit.



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.

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, the earth would bring forth shoots as in spring, and ruins would be raised up. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Bring rejoicing to our hearts and strength to our wills as we prepare for the coming of the Lord, for he is our light, our life and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

A Amen.

Greeting

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

A And also with you!

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



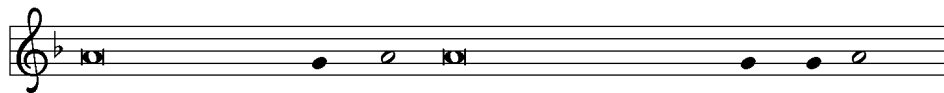
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

Reading from the Old Testament, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

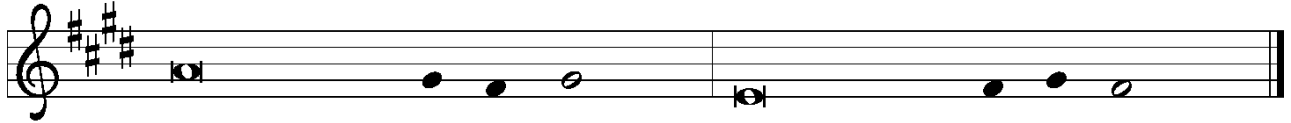
⁸For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 126



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¹When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great | things for them.”**

³The Lord has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them,

“I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Sermon

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HYMN: All Earth is Hopeful, ELW 266



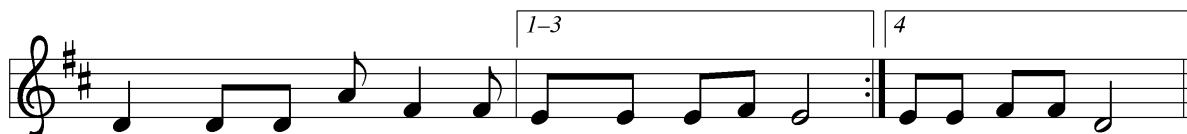
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel 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.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
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Prayers of the People

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need, responding to each petition muted or un-muted with the words 'Your mercy is great'.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. We pray especially for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, pastor Kim, our president Scott, our council, call committee, and reopening team. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of miracles and hard work, we pray for relief from the pandemic. Bring meaningful work to those furloughed. Guide and watch over all first responders and essential workers. Surround with your presence family and friends who are anxious for those on the front lines of crisis. Inspire healthcare workers and medical researchers as we rejoice in news of vaccines. Be a powerful presence with those in quarantine, those who feel isolated, and with all students, teachers and staff in academic communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. We pray especially for Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Laura Burdick, Mid Carlson, Lucas Forzley, Bob

Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Joe Harrington, Jim Jung, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Ernie LeVon, Elaine Nelson, Veronica Repasz, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, George Stewart, Leslie Thais, Scott Weidler, and those whose names we call out to you here, muted or un-muted: . . . *A brief silence.* Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

And now, siblings, for what else shall we pray, silent or spoken aloud? *A longer period of silence.* Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

Offertory Anthem: Advent Carol by Alfred V. Fedak

We worship God with our offerings. We give thanks for those who support Immanuel's life and mission. [We invite you to do that online](#) or by mail, and with your presence, prayer, and talents.

Offertory Prayer

And now, as we unmute ourselves for the Great Thanksgiving we pray together:
Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to all be blessed.
Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Prayer at the Table

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
And for this we pray: **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
And for this we pray: **Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

Come for all things are now ready; the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

Table Dismissal

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Benediction

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coffee hour/Announcements

TODAY AT IMMANUEL

12:30 pm Council Agenda Meeting

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Love Comes Down! Advent Midweek Worship & Fellowship Advent 3: Love Desired & Fulfilled

7 pm Wednesday on zoom

Our Midweek Gatherings on Wednesdays in Advent will be Holden Evening Prayer, with a brief meditation and time for reflection. This week we consider the way God's love comes to us as

“Love Desired and Fulfilled”, in the stories of John of the Cross and Katharina Von Bora Luther, followers of Jesus whose lives are lifted up by the church in December. Fellowship will follow the end of the evening prayer as we share the peace.

Watch for it!

Beginning Thursday, December 17 at 9:30 am, we're offering a new weekly Zoom fellowship opportunity for anyone who'd like to join in. We're all pretty much stuck at home for most of our days, so why not make a cup of coffee or tea and settle in for a little check-in. It's a chance to see how everyone is doing, to maybe ask for a little help with something and share how we're coping and passing our time. This group is hosted by Linda Edlund with assistance from Pastor Kim, and the Zoom link will be published in the Constant Contact announcement for the Wednesday evening Advent services.

Knitters and Quilters

10:30 am Thursday on zoom

Thursday, December 17 is the deadline for your recording of Silent Night!

Our whole congregation can join in song thru the gift of the Spirit in technology and Jimmy & Tom's mixing magic. For directions and song sheets

<https://files.constantcontact.com/e07707f0801/23c8ca0a-43f3-4788-b958-be1547f4f80f.pdf>

Congregation Council

12:30 pm Sunday

LOOKING AHEAD

Christmas Eve worship will be held at 8 pm on zoom. Our service will be simpler, but full of heart and song and joy. If you have a manger scene with a baby Jesus that is able to be held separately until Christmas Eve, consider Laying Down the Baby Jesus with us as a part of the service, as we join in prayers around the creche.

Christmas Day worship will be held at 10 am, a joint Lessons and Carols service with Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown PA. You will be invited to “bring some sparkle” to the occasion! Sparkling wine or grape juice for communion is one example! Or a sparkly sweater! Or a bit of tinsel or garland! Or that sparkle in our eyes that comes from knowing Jesus is in our lives.

THE SEASON AT HOME

Consider using our offertory prayer for the season as your table grace this Advent, perhaps as you light your advent wreath candles.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to all be blest.

Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

See the December newsletter for the Krentz Family Devotion and other ideas to keep the season at home.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

We need your input today for IAE events planning this winter!

We have received notice for the following Interfaith Action of Evanston events taking place virtually in January and February of 2021. The planners have asked for a sense of whether there is interest in these vital ministries in these alternative ways this year! Please let Nicolai know if you can be part of our Immanuel presence at nicolai.schousboe@comcast.net by Saturday, December 12th or show of hands at coffee hour today!

1) Walk for warmth (on wheels) on Jan. 18, 2021

IAE had a very successful walk for warmth that Bert Mount and I were able to make last winter. Can you make it with us on wheels this year? Each team sets a goal for funds to be solicited from faith or work communities, family, and friends.

- When: January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 11:00am-12:00pm
- Where: Evanston, starting location TBA
- What: Drive in a "parade" the 2-mile circuit of IAE overnight shelters.
- Who: Families, folks, and youth of all ages can show compassion and creativity by decorating their car and driving all or part of the route.
- Why: On MLK's National Day of Service, January 18, Walk for Warmth on Wheels will raise funds for operating the Emergency Overnight Shelters and heighten community awareness of people in Evanston who are homeless.



2) The annual vision keepers dinner (virtual) will be held Feb. 21 at 6 pm. Details as follows: Sunday Feb 21, 2020 at 6 PM

- Dinner: Participants pick up their reserved dinner from a choice of local restaurants
- Community: Each Faith Community eats their meal together in their own Zoom break out room
- Ceremony: Directly after dinner, participants attend ceremony on Zoom to honor the Vision Keepers
- Tickets: \$60.00 per person includes their choice of meal
- Benefits: IAE's direct services including soup kitchens, warming centers, emergency overnight shelter, Producemobile, Hospitality Center, SNAPGap

GoFundMe page for Swedish Covenant Meals through Prairie Grass Café is still open. Now more than ever we give thanks for our front line medical workers. God's work, our hands! [Go Fund Me Page](#)