

Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

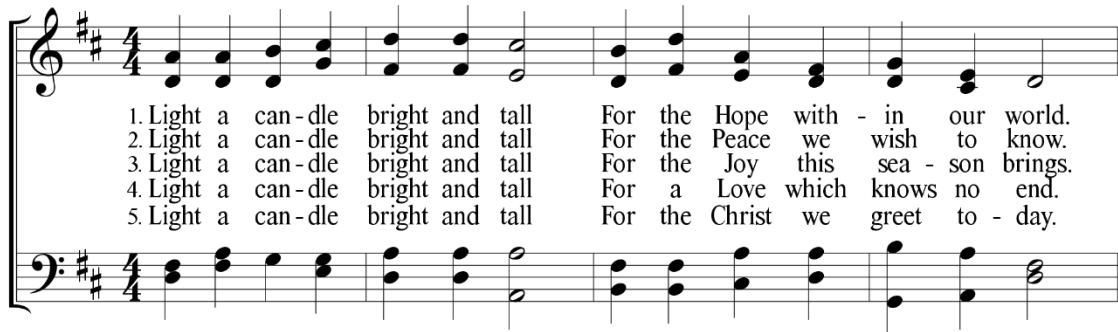
Zoom Service 8:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Prelude Anthem: Gloria In Excelsis Deo by J. S. Bach

Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting *Sing verse 5 as the candles are 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.

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

**A In him was Life, and the life was the light of all people!**

L At longest night we gather to celebrate the great dawn of our salvation.

**A With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven!"**

L In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and dwells among us.

**A With the shepherds we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard!**

# Gathering Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful, ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**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!

# GLORIA: Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289 *Sing verse 1*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## **Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

## **SONG O Holy Night**

### **Reading from the Old Testament, Isaiah 9:2-7 [AMY]**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## HYMN: Angels from the Realms of Glory, ELW 275

*sing verse 1*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line of the refrain. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around

them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

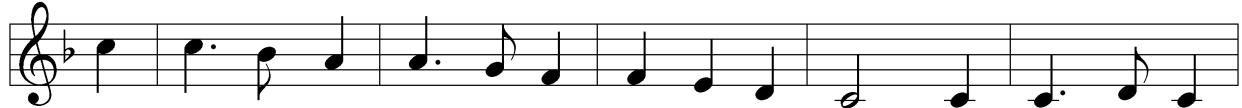
<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Laying Down the Baby Jesus

After hearing the Christmas story in the Gospel, with the children of our congregation, we are all invited to place the baby Jesus in the manger in any of our home manger scenes. We will pray at the manger, and conclude with verse 1 of *Away in the Manger*.

### HYMN: *Away in a Manger*, LBW 67 *sing verse 1*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked  
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

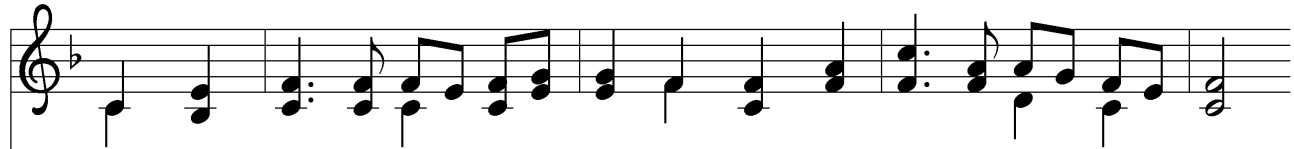


down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

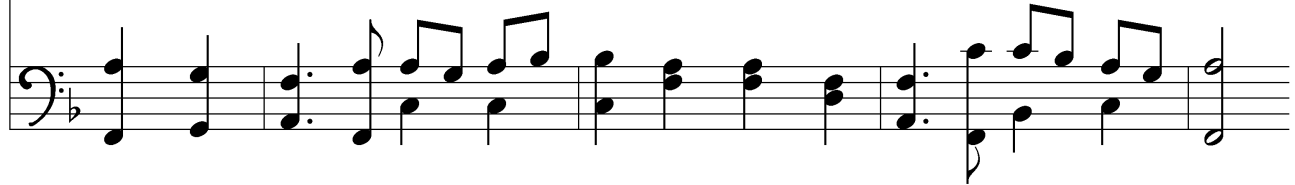
Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent.  
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

# Sermon

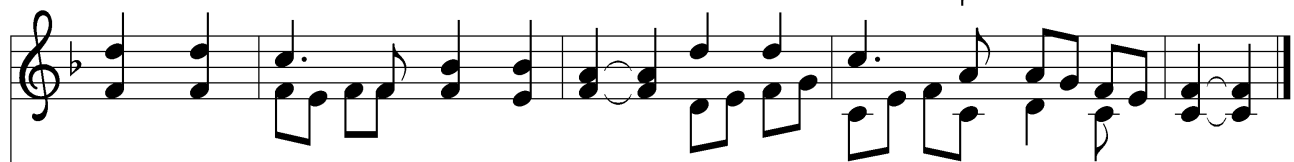
## HYMN: Once in Royal David's City, ELW 269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.





## **Prayers of the People**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding to each petition muted or un-muted with the words 'Your mercy is great'.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. As we find new and creative ways to gather for worship this Christmas-tide unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Turn our hearts to love for our neighbors. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The whole creation sings. We praise you for the development of coronavirus vaccines. We pray for the millions who are afflicted with Covid-19. Uphold physicians, nurses, and all health care workers, and provide medical facilities for everyone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who have experienced great loss of loved ones this year, and those separated from loved ones by covid. Heal those who are sick or hurting, especially 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, Kevin McDaniel, 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.* 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.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed, especially those most dear to us we remember before you (*a brief silence*). Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

**Offertory Anthem: What Child Is This? arr. by Evelyn R Laurter (Flute: Dana Barron)**

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,  
Creator of all and Source of life,  
at the birth of time  
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,  
you sent your Word, born of Mary,  
to shine in our darkness  
and to make us your own offspring.

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 birth and life among us,  
his death and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
when all things will be restored in him.  
For this we pray: **Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,  
that, held and nourished by you,  
we may live as your children,  
shining with the light 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.**

## **HYMN: Silent Night (video)**

## **Benediction**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

HYMN: Joy to the World, ELW 267

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,

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

**Fellowship Time**

## **TOMORROW AT IMMANUEL**

### **Christmas Day worship**

10 am Friday on zoom

We are thrilled to be offering 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.

## **NEXT WEEK AT IMMANUEL**

### **New Year’s Eve Eve Midweek Gathering**

7 pm Wednesday on zoom

Bid 2020 farewell and welcome the new year! With some scriptural reflection, we’ll be doing a variation on the Burning Bowl tradition and shred that which we would wish to leave behind from the year past, and invite prayerful reflection time on that which we hope and pray in this new year of 2021.

### **Coffee and Connections Check in!**

9:30 am Thursday on zoom    Look for link on the Midweek Gathering email

On this New Year’s Eve start the day with a cup of coffee or tea and settle in for a little check-in hosted by Linda Edlund and assisted by Pastor Kim

## **COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES**

**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](#)