

## The Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist In-Person and via Zoom December 5, 2021

## 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.

**Please keep your masks on during the worship service** and when moving to and from your place in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Announcements, celebrations, and time to socialize with one another will take place after worship during coffee hour in the fellowship hall. You're welcome to attend the coffee hour in-person, or via Zoom. After worship Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to join the coffee hour via Zoom



#### **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 is printed in this bulletin.

#### **Receiving Holy Communion**

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal because Christ invites you! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. For safety we have individually packaged communion with either wine or grape juice that you can pick up at the entrance of the sanctuary. We will commune all together in the pews at the designated time. Please deposit the cups and wrappers in the trash receptacles as you leave the sanctuary.

## Gathering: The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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

#### **Prelude**

Variations on "O Lord How Shall I Meet Thee" by I.S. Bach

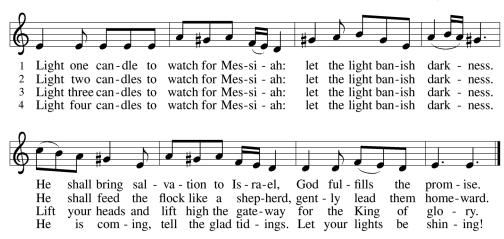
The Assembly stands when directed.

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Tyler Heyl

As the candle is lighted, the Assembly sings v.2

Tif in Veldele, v.2 ELW 240



## **Advent Wreath Prayer**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light

and to seek your ways of justice and peace,

for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes,

for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

#### A Amen.

## **Gathering**

P The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

#### A Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P God, for whom we wait,

A in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children

and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

+ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

#### 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!

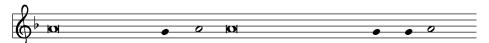






For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

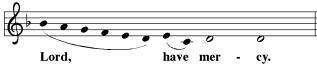






For this ho-ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,









## **Prayer of the Day**

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

P Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

**Word:** God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song

## **Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

Malachi 3:1-4

R A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. R Word of God, word of life.

## A Thanks be to God!

#### Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

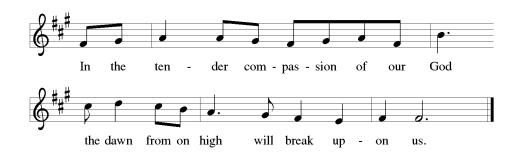
The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

Tone:

ELW Psalm Tone 3, 3 Sharps



#### Refrain:



- <sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the <sup>1</sup> God of Israel, you have come to your people and <sup>1</sup> set them free.
- <sup>69</sup>You have raised up for us a <sup>1</sup> mighty Savior, born of the house of your <sup>1</sup> servant David. R
- <sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us <sup>1</sup> from our enemies, <sup>71</sup>from the hands of <sup>1</sup> all who hate us,
- <sup>72</sup>to show mercy <sup>|</sup> to our forebears, and to remember your <sup>|</sup> holy covenant.
- <sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our <sup>I</sup> father Abraham:

 $^{74}$ to set us free from the hands of our  $^{\mathsf{I}}$  enemies,

free to worship you | without fear,

75holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R

- <sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of <sup>1</sup> the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to pre- <sup>1</sup> pare the way,
- <sup>77</sup>to give God's people knowledge <sup>|</sup> of salvation by the forgiveness <sup>|</sup> of their sins.
- <sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion <sup>|</sup> of our God the dawn from on high shall <sup>|</sup> break upon us,
- <sup>79</sup>to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death, and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R

R A reading from Philippians 1.

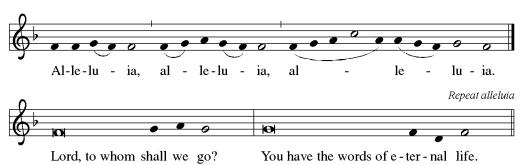
<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R Word of God, word of life.

#### A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

## **Gospel Acclamation**



Gospel Luke 3:1-6

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

## A Glory to you, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

## A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Assembly is seated.

#### Sermon

#### **Time of Silence**

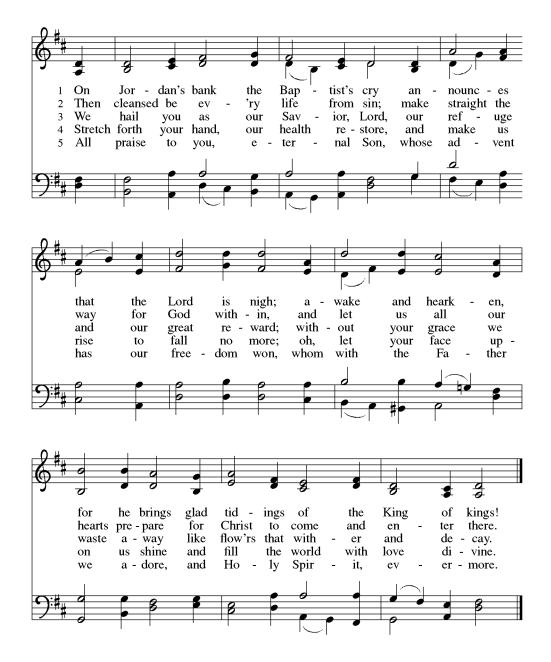
A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.

## Hymn of the Day

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (PUER NOBIS) ELW 249



## The Apostle's Creed

L With the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **Prayers of the People**

- L In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. *pause*
- L You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L Send your guidance to our leaders of faith and justice. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor Mark, our president Grace, our council, and anti-racism task force. Hear us, O God,

## A Your mercy is great.

L Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill, especially Steve Andes, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Jim Jung, Judith Kratochvil, the family of Kris Knohl, the family of Edgar Krentz, John and Nancy Lang, Veronica Repasz, Lorrie Roche, Darryl Simchak, Lloyd Stivers, the family of Leslie Thais, Renee Wessel, Grace and Alex, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. Grant them healing and wholeness. 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 Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

#### A Your mercy is great.

L Send relief to the workforce shortage currently impacting care for older adults. We pray for all who do provide care for elders. Let them continue to meet the needs of our elders and all vulnerable adults. By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, send them individuals who are inspired by service and dedicated to providing care. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated such as Nicholas, Bishop of Myra; Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

- P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
- 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 in an appropriate safe gesture as you speak peace to your neighbors.

**Meal:** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...

Offering

An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need. The offering will be collected. You scan this code with your smartphone camera to make your financial offering online.



Offering Music

Prepare Ye, the Way of the Lord By Michael Wise

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted and ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places shall be made plain.

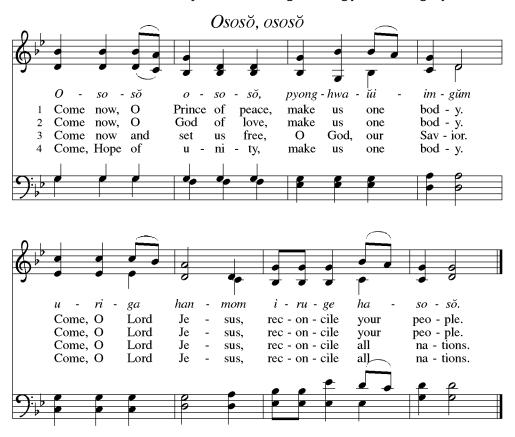
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

And the voice said cry, (What shall I cry?) all flesh is grass, and the goodliness thereof is as a flower that is in the field.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord shall stand fast forever.

O Zion, that bringeth glad tidings, get thee up into the mountains.
O Jerusalem, that bringeth glad tidings lift up thy voice with strength and say unto Judah, "behold thy God".

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



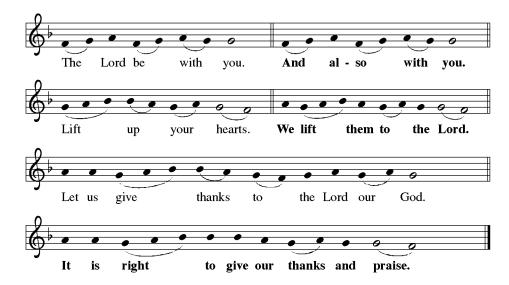
## **Offering Prayer**

- L Let us pray.
- L 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.

#### A Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

**Dialogue** The Assembly sings the boldfaced responses.

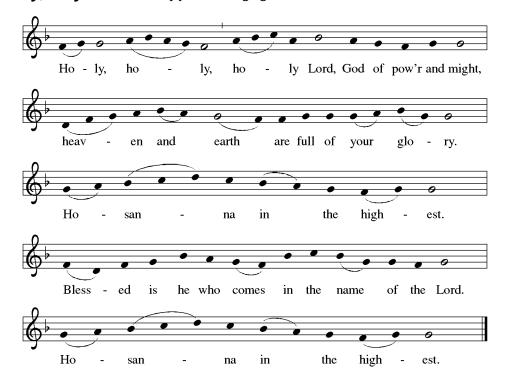


#### **Preface** The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy** *The Assembly joins in singing:* 



## 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died.** 

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

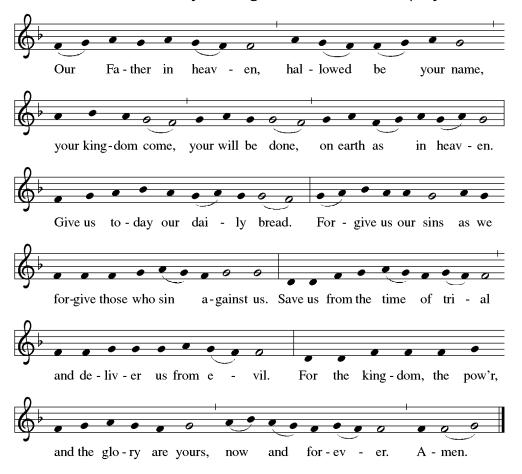
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:



## The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P Come to Christ's banquet.
- A Together we feast on God's gift of grace.

## **Distribution of Holy Communion**

The Assembly is seated.

- P This is the body of Christ, given for you. *All communing may partake of the bread*
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *All communing may drink of their cup.*

The Assembly stands when directed by the Presiding Minister.

#### **Table Dismissal**

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

#### A Amen.

## **Prayer after Communion**

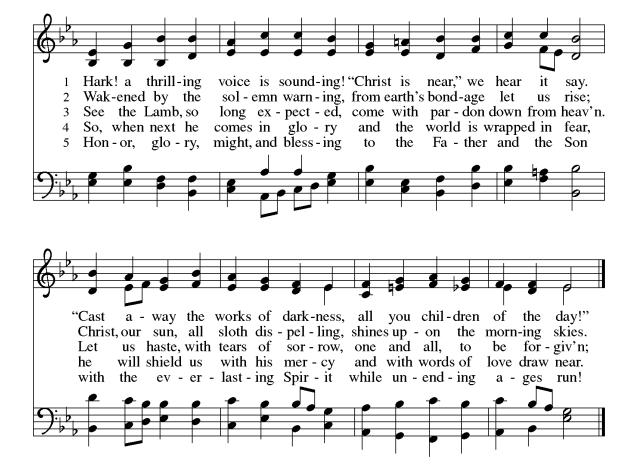
L Let us pray:
Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

#### A Amen

**Sending:** God blesses us, and sends us in mission to the world ...

## **Sending Song**

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!" (MERTON) **ELW 246** 



## **Blessing**

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

#### A Amen.

#### **Dismissal**

- L Go in peace. Christ is near.
- A Thanks be to God.

#### **Postlude**

Variations on "O Lord How Shall I Meet Thee" By J. B. Bach

Please stay for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall, as well as on Zoom. Due to Covid-19 precautions, there will not be refreshments. Zoom Participants, you may provide your own refreshments. Come enjoy one another's company and hear about all the opportunities for service and community!

To join coffee hour via Zoom on a smartphone, scan with your camera to get the link.

## Serving in worship today...

| Presiding Minister                      | The Rev. Mark Sloss                  |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Assisting Minister                      | Laurie Stievers                      |
| Cantor                                  |                                      |
| Lector                                  | Tyler Heyl                           |
| Organist                                |                                      |
| Music Director                          |                                      |
| Table Preparation                       | Kit McCarthy                         |
| Zoom Host                               | Grace Yarnoff                        |
| Audio-Visual TechniciansTom Couch, Kevi | in McDaniel, Tyler Heyl, Mark Kearns |
| Ushers                                  |                                      |

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#### This Week's Commemorations

# Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342 Monday, December 6, 2021

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

## Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397 Tuesday, December 7, 2021

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

**Upcoming Events –** for details see the weekly e-blast, *Immanuel Newsfeeds*, or the website Calendar at www.immanuelevanston.org.

| Tuesday, Dec. 7          | Midweek Adult Spiritual Formation | 7:00 pm  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Wednesday, Dec. 8        | Lectio Divina Prayers             | Noon     |
|                          | Holden Evening Prayers            | 7:00 pm  |
|                          | Choir Practice                    | 7:30 pm  |
| Thursday, Dec. 9         | Wilmette Band Practice            | 7:30 pm  |
| Sunday, Dec. 12-Advent 3 | Feeding One's Faith Discussion    | 9:00 am  |
|                          | Sunday Hybrid Worship             | 10:30 am |
|                          | Poinsettia Orders Due             |          |
|                          | New Community Church Worship      | 1:00 pm  |

## Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

| The Rev. Mark Sloss   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Grace Yarnoff   | Congregation President        |
| Melisa Larson   | Congregation Vice President   |
| Scott Romans  | Congregation Secretary        |
| Susan Ross  | Congregation Treasurer        |
| Dana Barron, Tom Couch, Linda Edlund, Bert Mount, Jim Skelton, Steve Warner | Congregation Council Members  |
| Mary Ann Kearns   | Financial Secretary           |
| Elizabeth Stegner   | Assistant Financial Secretary |
| James Morehead  | Music Director                |
| Greg Hummel   | Organist                      |
| Laurie Stivers  | Associate Organist            |
| Christine Kraemer   | Associate Organist            |
| lane 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!