



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

First Sunday of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist

December 26, 2021

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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 to worship today via Zoom!

About Our Worship Today

In order to maintain safety and include singing in our worship, only worship leaders and choir will be present in the sanctuary. Please remain muted until you get to the part where you will be invited to unmute and participate in some parts of the liturgy, as marked by this symbol.  = UNMUTE.

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. If you would like to participate in Holy Communion, you are invited to prepare a small bit of bread of any sort, and wine or juice if they are accessible to you, creating sacred space.

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

Selections of Christmas chorales from JS Bach's Orgelbuchlein

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 sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

A Amen.

P In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Holy God,

A 🔊 (UNMUTE) **we confess our sin before you.**

We replace compassion with competition.

We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.

We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.

We have not put on love in harmony with you.

Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

P I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us

in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

† In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

A Amen.

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.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

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.

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je - sus had . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

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

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

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

"That Boy - Child of Mary" Hymnal 293

Refrain



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



Refrain

What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

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

"On Christmas Night" Hymnal 274



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
sing, all for to see the new-born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

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

"What Child is This?" Hymnal 296

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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



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



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



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



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

The 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 the Responses

L Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

L You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L You come to us in wisdom to lift 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. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day, especially, Steve Andes, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Jim Jung, Judith Kratochvil, John and Nancy Lang, Veronica Repasz, Lorrie Roche, Darryl Simchak, Renee Wessel, Grace and Alex, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

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 Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever especially, Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, John, Apostle and Evangelist, and The Holy Innocents. We give thanks especially for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

P Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

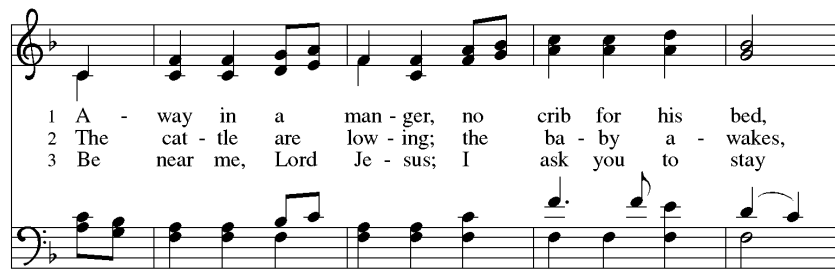
Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...

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

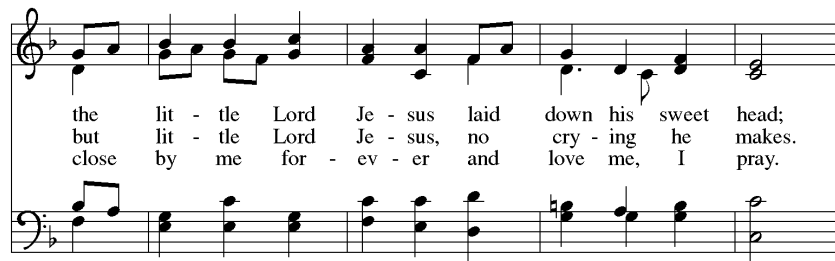


Offering Music Selection of a Christmas chorale from JS Bach's Orgelbuchlein

Presentation of the Gifts "Away in a Manger" Hymnal 278



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



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care






the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

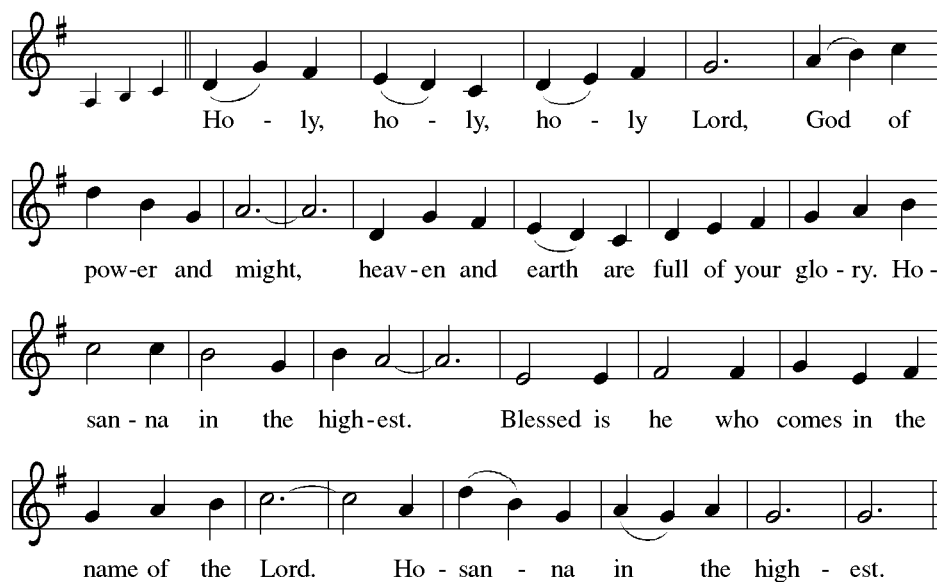
- L The Lord be with you.
A  **And also with you.**
L Lift up your hearts.
A  **We lift them to the Lord.**
L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
A  **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
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:*

Hymnal, p. 108



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:

A  **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.

A  **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray: *All sing.*



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

L In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
come, see what God makes known for you!

A 🗣️ **Thanks be to God!**

Distribution of Holy Communion

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.

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.

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.

A Amen.

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

Sending Song

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

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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, the Word made flesh!

A  Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior!

A  Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Selections of Christmas chorales from JS Bach's Orgelbuchlein

Serving in worship today...

Presiding Minister The Rev. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister Kit McCarthy
Lectors Anne Heider, Linda Edlund, Susan Ross
Organist Greg Hummel
Music Director James Morehead
Table Preparation Kathryn Skelton
Zoom Host Grace Yarnoff
Audio-Visual Technicians Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel, Tyler Heyl, Mark Kearns

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This Week's Commemorations

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday, December 27, 2021

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus

Saturday, January 1, 2022

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.

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

Tuesday, Dec. 28	Midweek Adult Spiritual Formation	7:00 pm
Friday, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	
Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022!	Happy New Year!	
Sunday, Jan. 2	Sunday Virtual Worship	10:30 am

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
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
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!**