

The Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist December 11, 2022

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.

Masks are now optional during worship service. Masks are optional 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. 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. The liturgy is printed in this bulletin. If you're joining us via Zoom, 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. For safety we have individually packaged communion with either wine or grape juice that you can pick up at the entrance of the sanctuary. The pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you" following the singing of the Communion Song. Please deposit the cups and wrappers in the trash receptacles as you leave the sanctuary.

The other option is to come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. The Assisting Minister and Pastor will remain masked during the distribution. Please keep in mind proper physical distance from other worshippers in coming forward to consume the elements. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

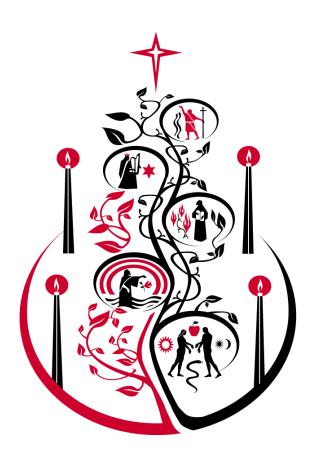
Gathering: The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

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

Prelude

Partita on "Rejoice greatly, O my soul" By Georg Böhm

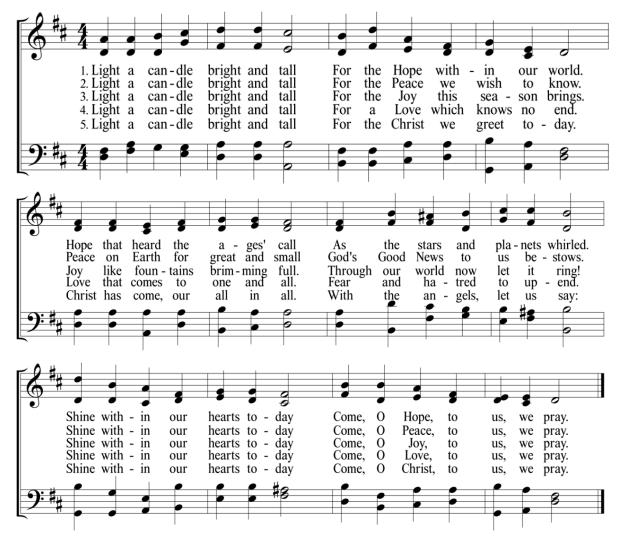


Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dana Barron

As the candle is lighted, the Assembly sings v.3

"Light a Candle, Bright and Tall", v. 3



Advent Wreath Prayer

L Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

A Amen.

Light three candles.

Gathering

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

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

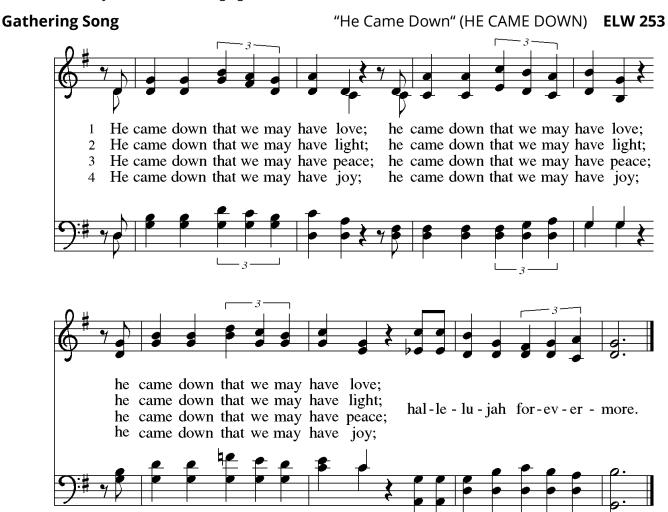
Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
- A

 Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.
- P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of new beginnings,
- A we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths.
 We prepare for war instead of peace.
 We dishonor one another and your creation.
 Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.
 Amen.
- P People of God,
 a new thing is growing in our midst,
 a tender branch,
 a living sign.
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
 You have put on + Christ,
 and your sins have been washed away.
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
- A 🔘 Amen.



Greeting.

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- A Name And Also with you!

Kyrie

Help, save,

comfort,

men.



de - fend

us,

gra - cious

and

Prayer of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- A **Q** And also with you.
- P Let us pray...

Pause for a moment of silence...

P Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

Isaiah 35:1-10

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

 ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
 ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
9No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

ELW Psalm Tone 8, 1 Sharp

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:



Refrain:





= Please use your mask when singing.

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness ¹ of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in ¹ God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant. From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great ¹ things for me and holy ¹ is your name.

⁵⁰You have mercy on | those who fear you, from generation to | generation. R

⁵¹You have shown strength ^I with your arm and scattered the proud in ^I their conceit,

52 casting down the mighty | from their thrones and lifting | up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry ¹ with good things and sent the rich ¹ away empty.

⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your [|] servant Israel, to remember the prom- [|] ise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise made [|] to our forebears, to Abraham and his chil- [|] dren forever. **R**

Reading from the New Testament

James 5:7-10

R A reading from James.

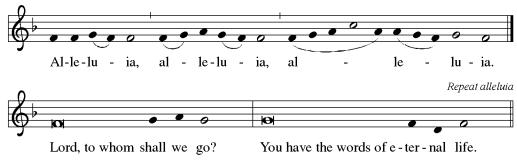
⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

- **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 Matthew 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written.

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

••• The Alleluia of the Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then 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 😷





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 (a) the Responses

L As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

(brief pause)

L Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

A N hear our prayer.

L Watchful God, you raise up wisdom and service in our church leaders. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor Mark, our president Dana, our council, and our justice ministries who guide and instruct our communities. God, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss especially Steve Andes, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Lucas Forzley, John Hancko, Marcie Heyl, Jim Jung, the family of Susan Knohl, Judith Kratochvil, John & Nancy Lang, the family of George McVey, Merle Shearer, Darryl Simchak, George Swierczynski, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...].. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

A hear 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 God in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, especially Lucy and John of the Cross, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

- P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
- A Amen.

Peace

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- A **Q** 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/Anthem

"Keep Your Lamps" Arr. by Andrew Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, The time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary, Children, don't get weary, Children, don't get weary, 'Til your work is done. Christian, journey soon be over, Christian, journey soon be over, Christian, journey soon be over, The time is drawing nigh.

This Week's Commemorations

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591 Wednesday, December 14, 2022

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)

Friday, December 16, 2022

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

From sundaysandseasons.com.



The Assembly stands and sings **Verse 3** as the gifts are brought forward.



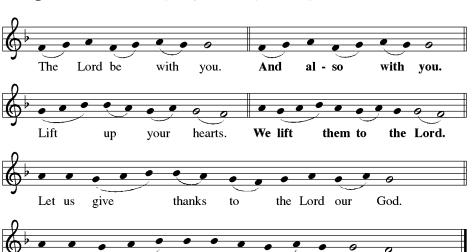
Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
- L Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue The Assembly sings the boldfaced responses.



to give our

Preface The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:

right

is

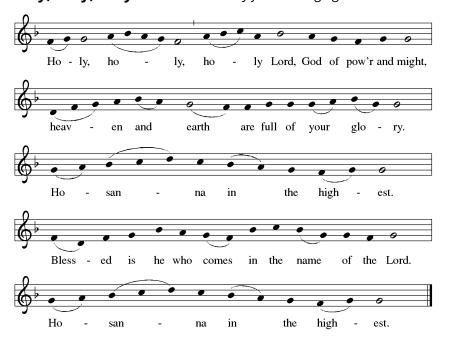
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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:

thanks and

praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy The Assembly joins in singing:



S 161

S 162

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.

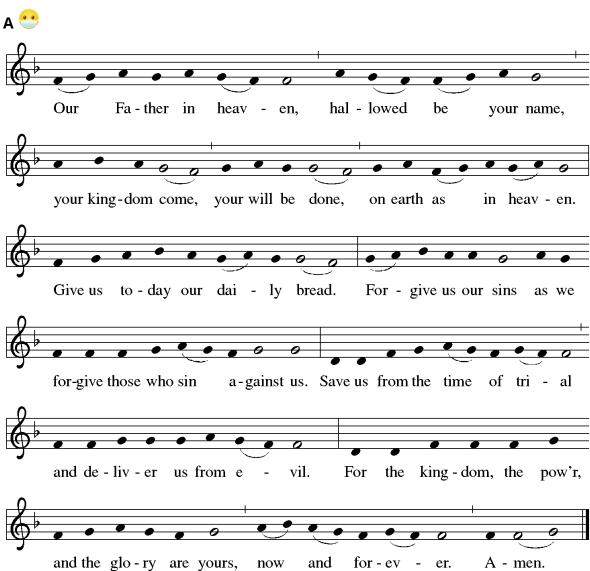
Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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

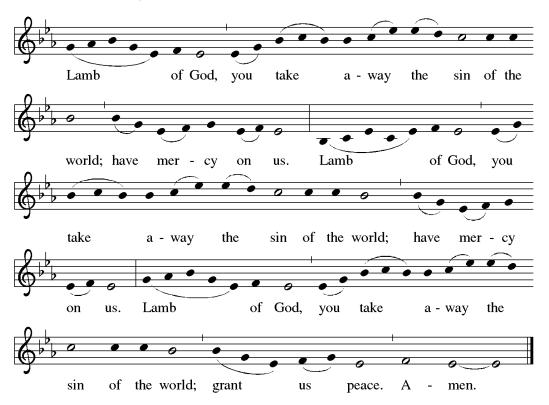


The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you..

The Assembly is seated.



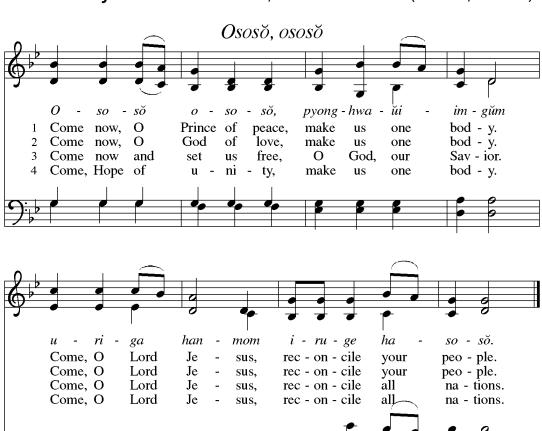


Distribution of Holy Communion

For those who are communing with the packets or online, the pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you".

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. The Assisting Minister and Pastor will remain masked during the distribution. Please keep in mind proper physical distance from other worshippers in coming forward to consume the elements. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

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



The Assembly stands as directed.

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. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Blessing

- P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

 + bless you now and forever.

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



Dismissal

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

Postlude

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" By Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Please stay for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. You may remove your mask when eating or drinking and please continue to social distance.

Refreshments today are hosted by the Ross Family.

Come enjoy one another's company and this opportunity for extended fellowship!!



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	Kit McCarthy
Lector	
Acolyte	
Organist	Christine Kraemer
Music Director	
Table Preparation	Marlene Chatain
Zoom Host	Bert Mount
Audio-Visual Technicians	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Marlene Chatain & Nicolai Schousbos

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Upcoming Events – for details see the weekly e-blast, *Immanuel Newsfeeds*, or the website Calendar at www.immanuelevanston.org. Worship services can be attended either in person or online.

Monday, December 12	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
Tuesday, December 13	Midweek Adult Bible Study	7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 14	Midweek Advent Evening Prayer	7:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, December 15	Group Spiritual Direction	7:00 pm
	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Saturday, December 17	Indoor Farmers' Market	8:00 am
Sunday, December 18 Advent 4	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	Council Meeting	1:00 pm
	North Shore Squares	1:00 pm

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark SlossPasto	or
Dana Barron	nt
Bert Mount	nt
Steve Warner	ry
Susan RossCongregation Treasure	er
Diane Keely, Michael Kloster, Lisa Larson, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff	rs
Mary Ann KearnsFinancial Secretar	ry
Elizabeth Stegner Assistant Financial Secretar	ry
James Morehead	
Christine KraemerOrganis	
Laurie StiversAssociate Organis	st
lane Kaihatsu Parish Administrato	٦r

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!