

The First Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist December 1, 2024

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.

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 ushers. 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 worshipping 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. There are two options: You may 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. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements. The other option is 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.

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

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

₼ All may make the sign of the cross.

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Jan Bender, "Savior of the Nations, Come" by J.S. Bach, and Variations on "The King Shall Come" by David P. Dahl

Confession and Forgiveness

The Assembly stands as able.

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

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
- A 🚇 Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of mercy,
- A we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst.

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

Amen.

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

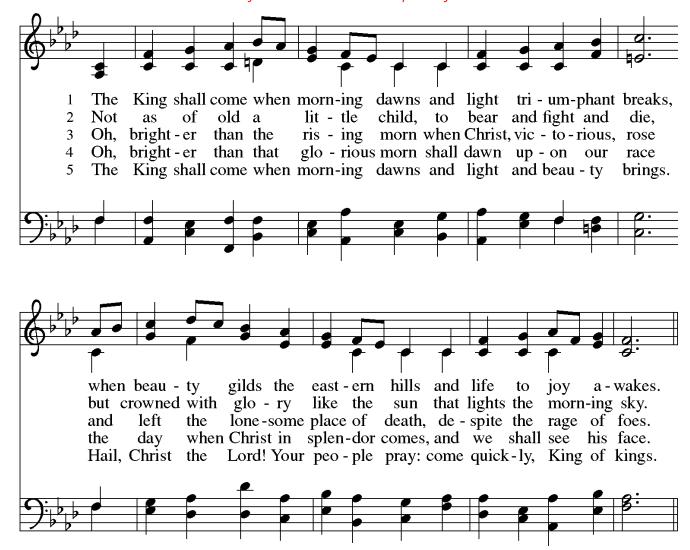
receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through + Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

A • Amen.

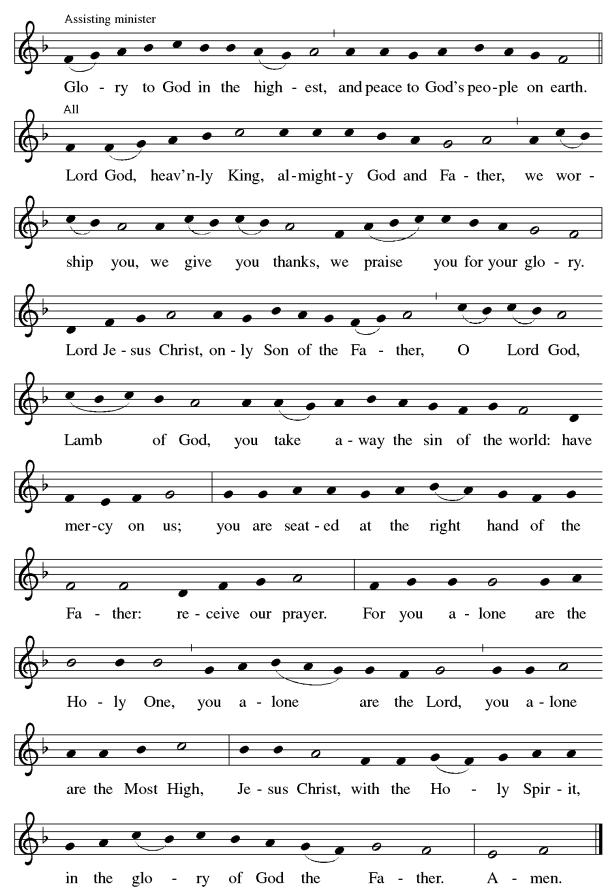
You may reverence the cross as it passes you.



Greeting

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

Canticle of Praise "Glory to God" \$158



Advent Wreath Prayer

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

The first candle is lit.

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn (LUCENT)

ELW 261

While the candle is lit, the Assembly sings Verse 1



Prayer of the Day

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

Pause for a moment of silence...

- P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father 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.

Jeremiah 33:14-16

R A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

- R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.
- A Thanks be to God!

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:



¹To [|] you, O LORD, I lift [|] up my soul.

² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

- ³ Let none who look to you be ¹ put to shame; rather let those be put to shame ¹ who are treacherous.
- ⁴ Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths. R
- ⁵ Lead me in your ¹ truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ¹ the day long.
- ⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love, for they are from | everlasting. R
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
 - ⁸ You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
 - ⁹ You lead the low- [|] ly in justice and teach the low- [|] ly your way.
 - ¹⁰ All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

Reading from the New Testament

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

- R A reading from 1 Thessalonians.
 - ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
 - ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.
 - ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all,

just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.

A • Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Stand up and | raise your heads--* your redemption is | drawing near.

Gospel Luke 21:25-36

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Gospel Acclamation is sung once again.

The Assembly is then seated.

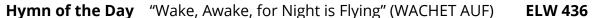
Sermon

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.





Continued on the next page...



The Apostle's Creed

With the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

L Α 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 As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

(brief pause)

L God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

A **§** receive our prayer.

L God of justice, Inspire a quest of fairness in our community and leaders. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor Mark, our president Michael, our council, our justice & equity ministry, and all who guide and instruct our communities. Lord in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Marlene Chatain, Alice Graf, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Mark Kraemer, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Kathy Roderer, Joe Simchak, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

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 God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died, especially Francis Xavier, John of Damascus, Nicolas, and Ambrose. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
- A receive our prayer.
- P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- A Amen.

Peace

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- A 👲 And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of Christ, saying "Peace be with you,"

"The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

The Assembly is seated.

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.

Offering Music

"Lost in the Night" Arr. by Kyle S. Haugen

Lost in the night do the people yet languish, Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish, Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish. Will not day come soon? Will no day come soon?

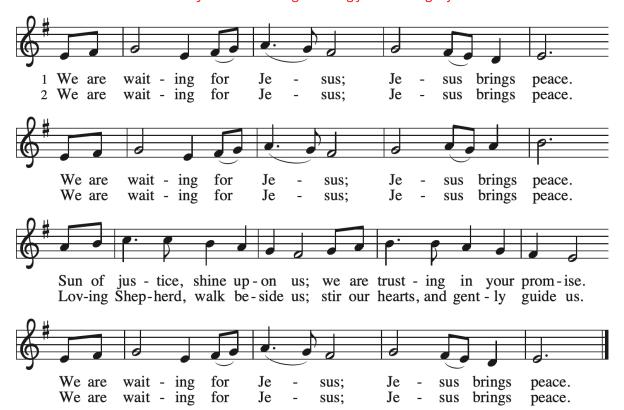
Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?

Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,
Giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?

Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?

Sorrowing wand'rers, in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance excelling, Death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon, Christ is coming soon!
Will not day come soon? Come and save us soon!
Christ is coming soon!

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



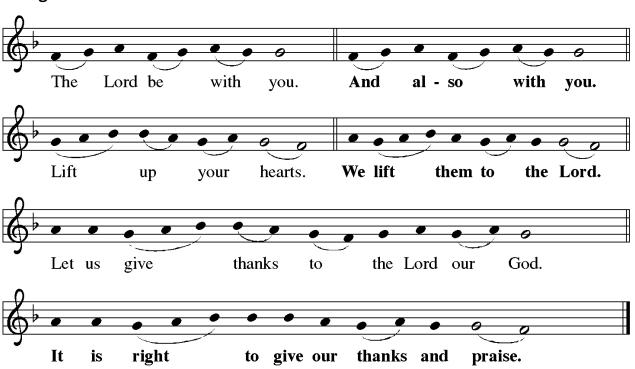
Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
- L Creator God,
 you made the whole world,
 even the farthest stars,
 and you draw near to feed us.
 We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
 Strengthen us with this food
 that we may live in expectation
 for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

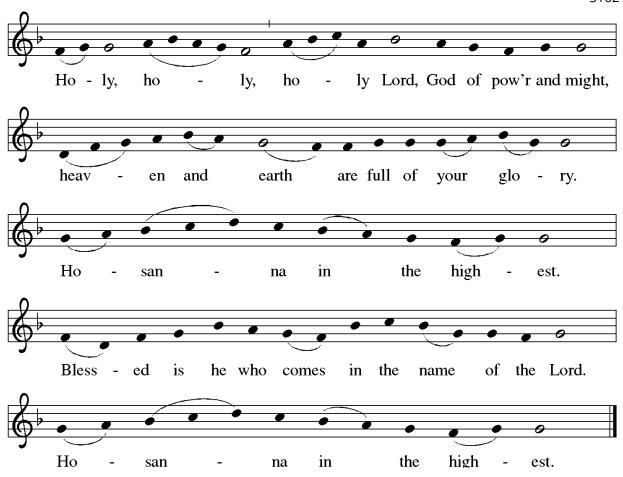




Preface *The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:*

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:



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:



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.

Α

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.

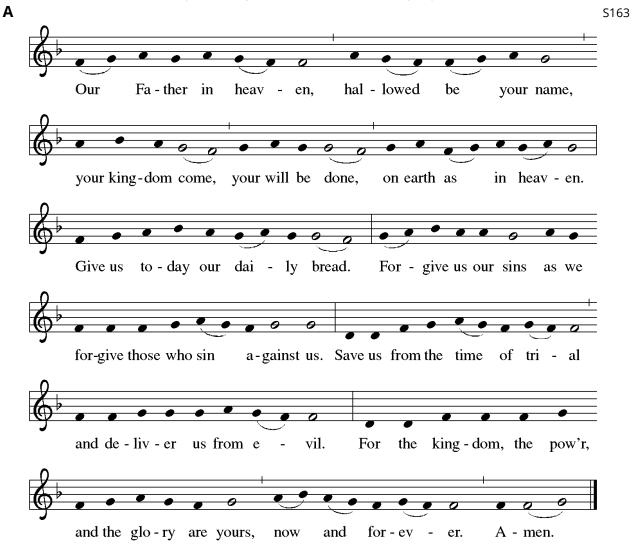
A Come, Holy Spirit.

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

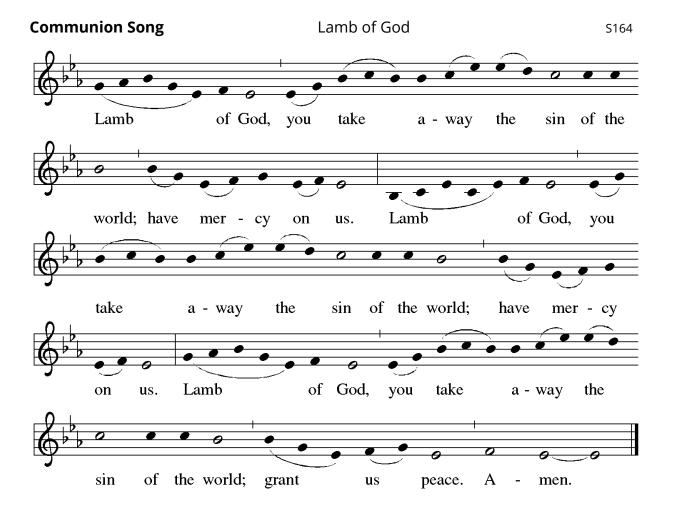
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:



The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P God feeds us with tender mercy.
- A 🎍 We come to the table with open hearts

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."

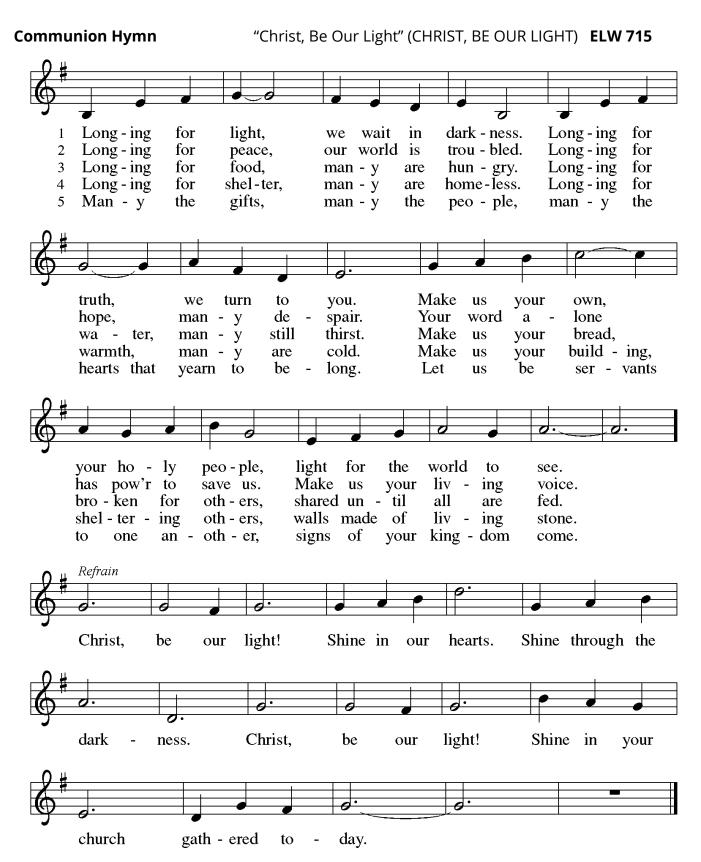
Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to assemble around the rail to receive communion. Those who are able, you may kneel. You will receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. 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.

 When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen."



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...
Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.

A Amen.

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

Blessing

- P God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey,
 - ♣ bless and keep you now and forever.
- A Amen.



Love, the

Love, the

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way.

way.

to - day—

to - day—

east, and

east, and

sing

sing

Dismissal

- L Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
- A Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Carillon on People, Look East" by Rebecca Groom te Velde

Please stay for a time of fellowship and announcements immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.

Today's refreshments are hosted by Anne Heider & Steve Warner.

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	
Lector	Steve Warner
Acolyte	Kit McCarthy
Organist	
Music Director	
Table Preparation	Terri Simchak
Zoom Host	Jerry Larson
Audio-Visual Technician	Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Terri Hummel
Counter	Jerry Larson

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This week's commemorations....

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749 Wednesday, December 4, 2024

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342 Friday, December 6, 2024

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 Saturday, December 7, 2024

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. From sundaysandseasons.com.

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.

Sunday, Dec. 1	Youth Theater Rehearsal	1:30 pm
Monday, Dec. 2	Youth Theater Rehearsal	6:00 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 3	Midweek Spiritual Gathering	2:00 pm
	Youth Theater Rehearsal	6:00 pm
	Group Spiritual Direction	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 4	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
	Midweek Advent Prayers	7:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 5	Daytime Quilters	9:00 am
	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Saturday, Dec. 7	Indoor Farmers Market	8:00 am
	Chicago Trombone Christmas Concert	11:30 am
Sunday, Dec. 8	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
2nd Sunday of Advent	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	Sherman Gardens Apt. Holiday Party	3:00 pm

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

r	
The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Michael Kloster	Congregation President
Terri Simchak	
Dana Barron	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Diane Keely, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Steve Warner	Congregation Council Members
Laurie Stivers	Financial Secretary
James Morehead	Music Director
Christine Kraemer	Organist
Laurie Stivers	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!