



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
December 22, 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 will be collected by the Acolyte. 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 ...*

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

P: Presiding Minister **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister **R:** Reader **A:** Assembly

✙ All may make the sign of the cross.

Prelude

"My Soul Does Magnify the Lord" BWV 648 by J.S. Bach and
Variations on "Savior of the Nations, Come" by Augustinus Franz Kropfreiter

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.



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Greeting

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

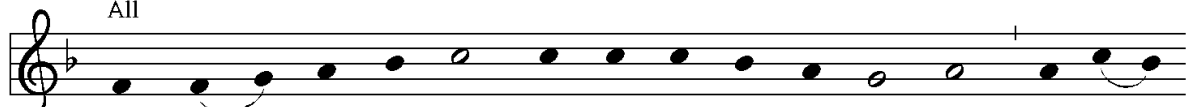
A  **And also with you!**

Assisting minister

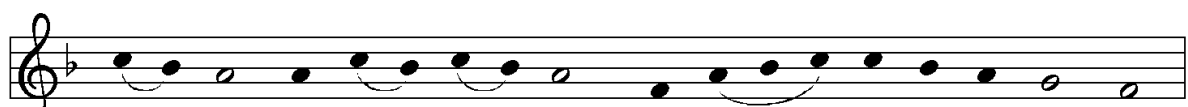


Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

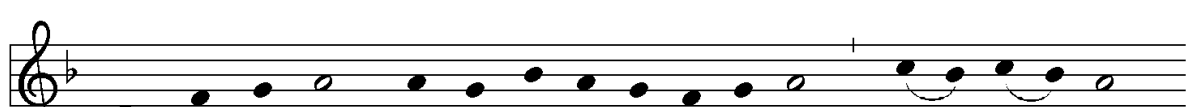
All




Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



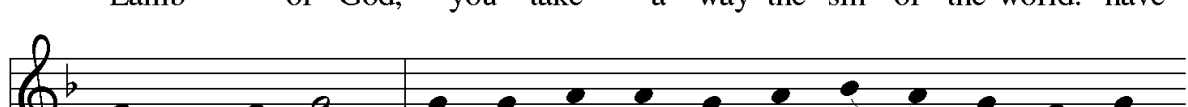
ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



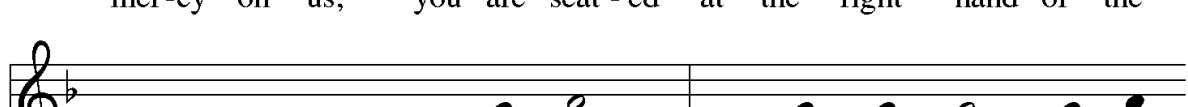
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



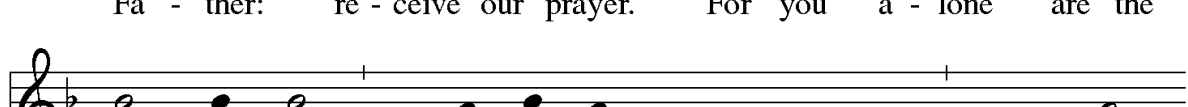
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



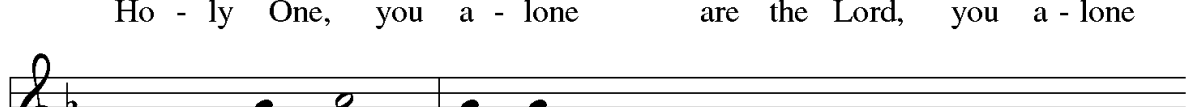
mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



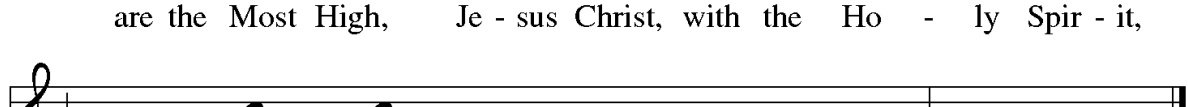
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Advent Wreath Prayer

L We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
 that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
 As we light the candles on this wreath,
 open our eyes to see your presence
 in the lowly ones of this earth.
 Enlighten us with your grace,
 that we may sing of your advent among us
 in the Word made flesh.
 Grant this through Christ our Lord,
 whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

A Amen.

All candles are lit.

"As the Dark Awaits the Dawn" (LUCENT)

ELW 261

While the candles are lit, the Assembly sings Verse 4.



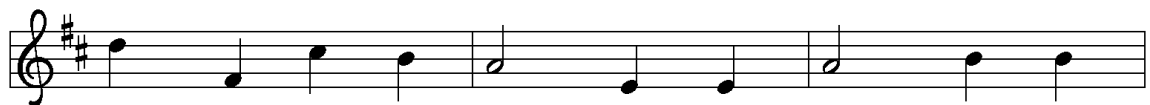
1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
 3 As the moon re - flects the sun
 4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



Sing verse 4 only



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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.

Micah 5:2-5a

R A reading from Micah.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

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

A Thanks be to God!

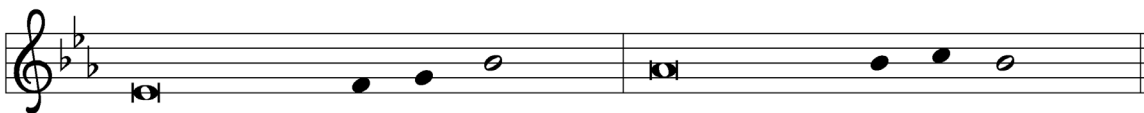
Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

Psalm Tone 4, 3 flats

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:



46^b My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
 47 my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
 48 **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:
 49 you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
 and holy | is your name.
 50 **You have mercy on | those who fear you,**
from generation to | generation. R
 51 You have shown strength | with your arm
 and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
 52 **casting down the mighty | from their thrones**
and lifting | up the lowly.
 53 You have filled the hungry | with good things
 and sent the rich | away empty.
 54 **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,
 55 the promise made | to our forebears,
 to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. R

Reading from the New Testament

Hebrews 10:5-10

R A reading from Hebrews.

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;
 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.
 7 Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
 (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
 8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and
 offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

S160a

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

Repeat alleluia

Here I am, the servant | of the Lord:* let it be with me according | to your word.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

A **Glory to you, O Lord!**

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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.



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
 2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
 3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
 4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
 kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
 place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
 God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -



ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
 pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
 hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
 ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
 haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
 fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
 on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
 low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
 world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
 own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

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 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 our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

A 🗣 receive our prayer.

L God our teacher, teach us the ways of compassion and service. 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 our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill, especially Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Marlene Chatain, the Family of Alice Graf, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Mark Kraemer, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Kathy Roderer, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. Lord, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. 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 Lord in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, especially Stephen, John, and The Holy Innocents, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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

"There is No Rose of Such Virtue"

By Jessica Nelson

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda. (A wonderful thing)

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pares forma. (Of the same form)
The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis deo: (Glory to God on high)
Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus. (Let us go).

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



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Offering Prayer

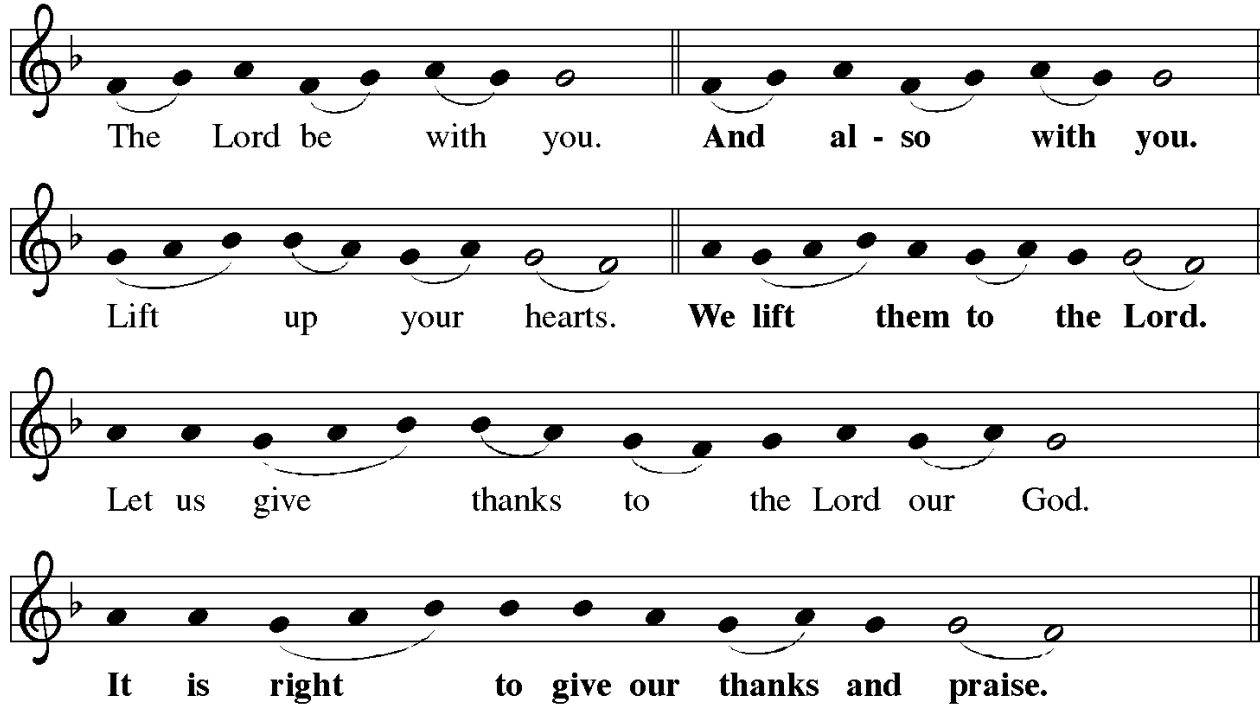
- L Let us pray.
- L Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

S161



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



A Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

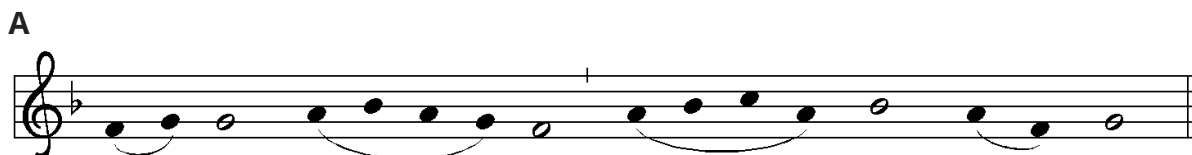
With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

A **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer

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

A

S163

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

P God feeds us with tender mercy.

A  We come to the table with open hearts

The Assembly is seated.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
 on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

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 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 will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion.

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."



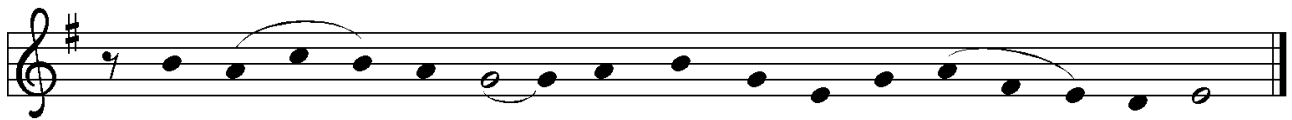
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

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.**



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

A 🎤 **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Savior of the Nations, Come” BWV 661 by J.S. Bach

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

Today's refreshments are hosted by Barbara & Mark Huffman.

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 Chris Djuric
LectorSusan Ross
Acolyte..... Kit McCarthy
Organist Christine Kraemer
Music Director.....James Morehead
Table Preparation..... Terri Simchak
Zoom Host..... Jerry Larson
Audio-Visual Technician..... Kevin McDaniel
Ushers Joe & Terri Simchak
Counter Terri Simchak

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This week's commemorations....

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Thursday, December 26, 2024

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

Friday, December 27, 2024

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

Saturday, December 28, 2024

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.

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.

Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	9:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>	
	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
Sunday, Dec. 29	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	New Community Church Community Outreach Event	1:00 pm

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Michael Kloster	Congregation President
Terri Simchak	Congregation Vice President
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
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!**