

The First Sunday of Christmas

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist December 29, 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 ...

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

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

+ All may make the sign of the cross.

Prelude

"Walking in the Air" by Howard Blake, "Lo, How a Rose" by Johannes Brahms, and "In Dulci Jubilo" by Franz Liszt

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, whose steadfast love is everlasting.
- A 🚇 Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection.
- P God-with-us,
- A we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.
- P Hear the good news and rejoice!
 You are God's chosen ones,
 holy and beloved,
 + forgiven in Christ,
 and freed to respond in joy.
- A Amen.

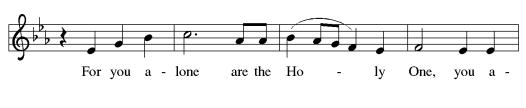




Greeting

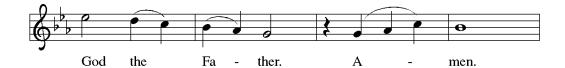
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A 🎍 And also with you!















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 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 Assembly is seated.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures.

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

R A reading from 1 Samuel.

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

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

 $^{^{26}}$ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The organ will play the tone. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses.

Tone:



- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD [|] from the heavens; praise God [|] in the heights.
- ² Praise the LORD, [|] all you angels; sing praise, all you [|] hosts of heaven.
- ³ Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon; sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.
- ⁴ Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Let them praise the name [|] of the LORD, who commanded, and they [|] were created,
- ⁶ who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever, giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- 8 fire and hail, 1 snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do-1 ing God's will;
- ⁹ mountains ¹ and all hills, fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;
- 10 wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth [|] and all peoples, princes and all rulers [|] of the world;
- 12 young | men and maidens, old and | young together.
- ¹³ Let them praise the name [|] of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over [|] earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all ¹ faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. ¹ Hallelujah!

Reading from the New Testament

R A reading from Colossians.

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything

Colossians 3:12-17

together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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.



The Nicene Creed

P 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

L Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

(brief pause)

- L For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,
- A **₱** receive our prayer.

L For those who lead and serve, we pray. 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. God of grace,

A receive our prayer.

L For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,

A receive our prayer.

L For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace,

A receive our prayer.

L For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill, especially Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Marlene Chatain, Nancy Graf, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Mark Kraemer, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, and Kathy Roderer. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. God of grace,

A receive our prayer.

L For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

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 God of grace,

A receive our prayer.

L For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, especially Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,

A receive our prayer.

P We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

Offering An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.

Offering Music

"Greensleeves" by Charles Ore

Presentation of the Gifts

"What Feast of Love"

ELW 487

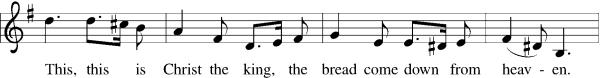
The Assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward.



- 1 What feast of love is of fered here, what ban-quet come from heav en?
- 2 What light of truth is of fered here, what cov e nant from heav en?
- 3 What wine of love is of fered here, what crim-son drink from heav en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en? What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
- God of heaven and earth,
 from the beginning, you have called forth life,
 in which you take delight.
 The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
 Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
 that we may join the chorus of creation
 to tell of your salvation from day to day.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

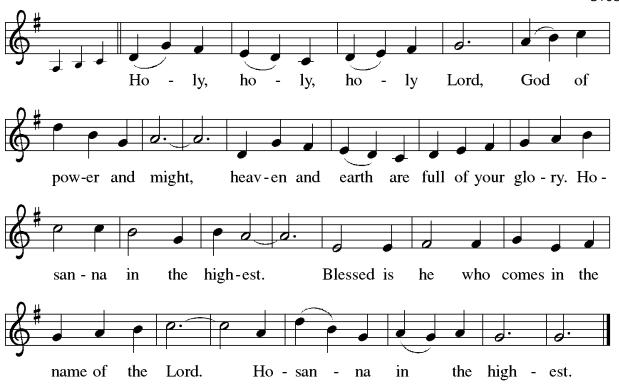


Preface *The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:*

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

Α

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.

Α 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. Α

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:
- A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

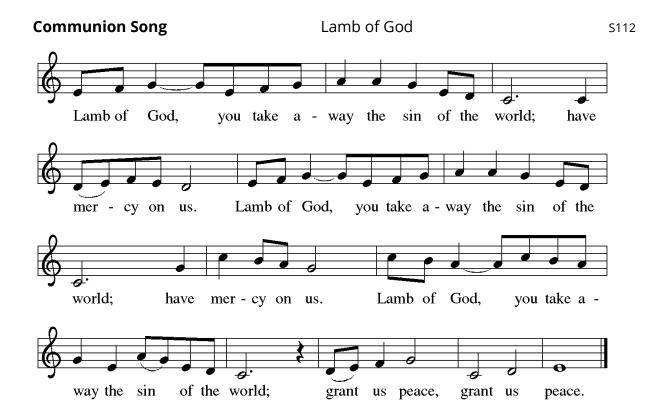
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.
- 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 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."

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...
Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.

A Amen.

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

Blessing

P The God of love,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

A 🚇 Amen.



Dismissal

- L Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
- A Thanks be to God.

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

Today's refreshments are hosted by Everyone who has brought extra Christmas treats & goodies.

Come enjoy one another's company and learn what's happening in and throughout the Immanuel congregation!!

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



Serving in worship today...

Presiding MinisterAssisting Minister	
Lector	
Acolyte	Chris Djuric
Organist	Christine Kraemer
Music Director	James Morehead
Table Preparation	Terri Simchak
Zoom Host	Jim McCarthy
Audio-Visual Technician	Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Terri Hummel, Nicolai Schousboe
Counter	Steve Warner

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This week's commemorations....

Name of Jesus

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

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.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872 Thursday, January 2, 2025

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine. 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. 31	New Year's Eve	
Wednesday, Jan. 1	Happy New Year!	
	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
Thursday, Jan. 2	Daytime Quilters	9:00 am
Saturday, Jan. 4	Indoor Farmers' Market	8:00 am
Sunday, Jan. 5	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
Epiphany (Observed)		
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am

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!