



The Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M.

**Worship with Eucharist
December 14, 2025**

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 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: Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct. 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 acolyte will collect the empty glass.

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 ...*

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

Variations on "Savior of the Nations, Come" by Hugo Distler and
Meditation on "Creator of the Stars of Night" by Rebecca te Velde

The Assembly stands when directed and turns toward the font.

Confession and Forgiveness

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 home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

A 🗣️ **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

A 🗣️ **we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

P God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior!

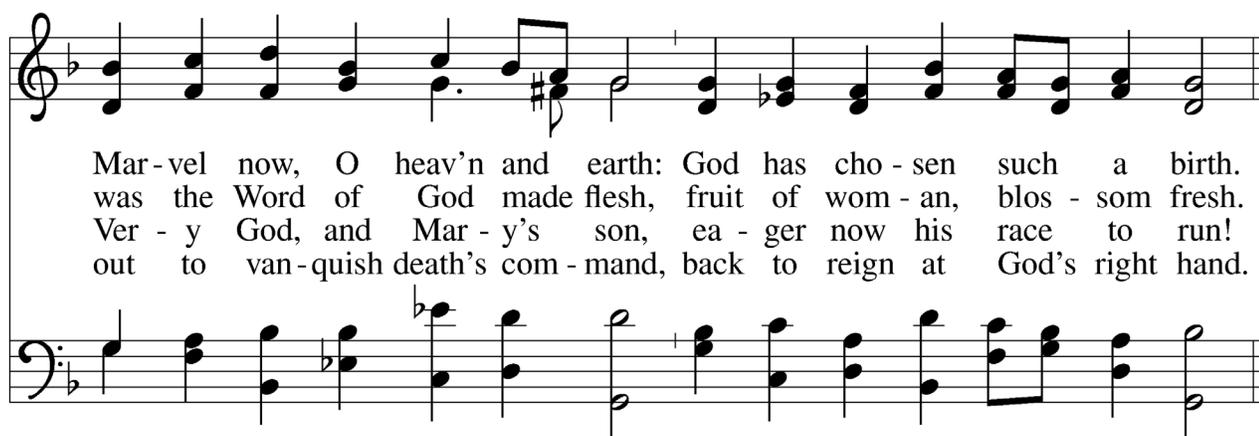
A 🗣️ **Amen.**

Gathering Song "Savior of the Nation, Come" (NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND) **ELW 263**

You may reverence the cross as it passes you.



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Greeting

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

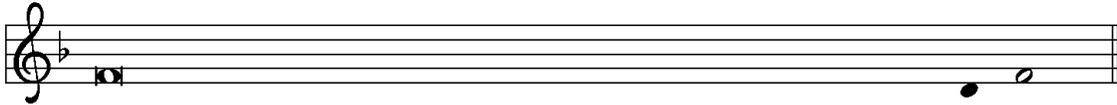
A  **And also with you!**

Kyrie

S138



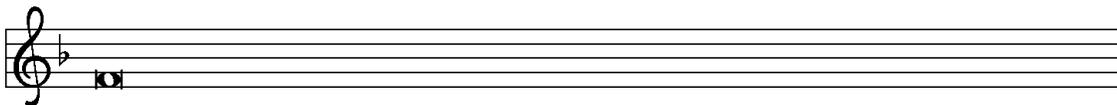
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



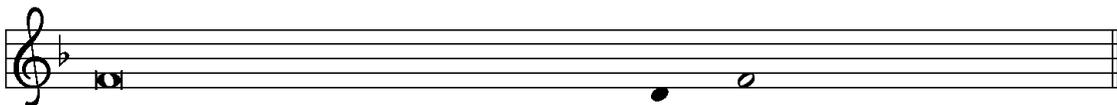
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



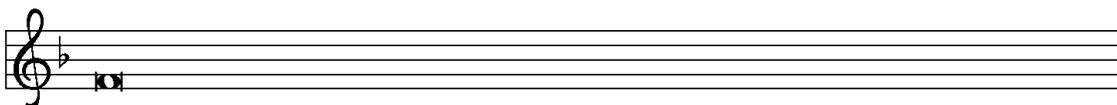
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



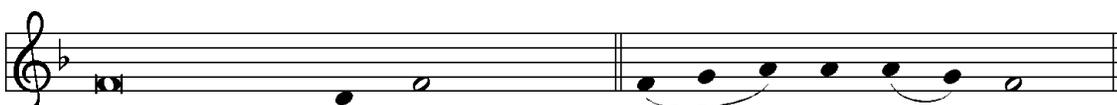
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



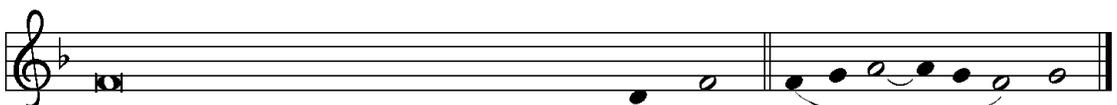
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Advent Wreath Prayer

L 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.

The first, second, and third candles are lit.

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" (OSOSO)

ELW 247

While the candles are lit, the Assembly sings Verse 3

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - giŭm
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

→
 Sing verse 3 only

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

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 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 First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

R A reading from Isaiah.

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

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say 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."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ 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;
⁷ 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.

⁸ A 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.

⁹ No 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.

¹⁰ And 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, or The Word of the Lord.

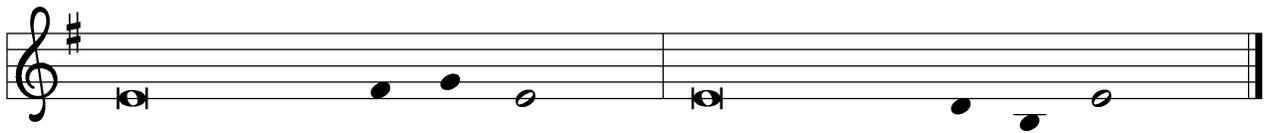
A Thanks be to God!

Psalm Luke 1:46b-55

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:

My spir - it re - joic - es in
God my Sav - ior.

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness ^l of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in ^l God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your ^l lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will ^l call me blessed:

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

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on ^l those who fear you,
from generation to ^l generation. R**

⁵¹ You have shown strength ^l with your arm
and scattered the proud in ^l 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 Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

R A reading from James.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

A 🎤 **Thanks be to God!**

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

S142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

² When 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?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease 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."

⁷ As 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

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

¹¹ "Truly 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 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 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 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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 In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

(brief pause)

L God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

A 🙏 hear our prayer.

L When there is pain and suffering in our communities, inspire us into taking action for our neighbors. We pray for our bishops Yehiel and Wayne, our pastor Mark, our president Michael, our council, our justice ministries and all who guide and instruct our communities. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

L When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

L When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

L When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Tom Couch, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Shirley Patrick, Joseph Sloss, Laurie Stivers, Steve Warner, Marina Yarnoff, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts... In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

L When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. Especially we pray for Lutheran World Relief, Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services. God of grace,

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 of grace,

A hear our prayer.

L As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith especially John of the Cross and Katharina von Bora Luther. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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 Anthem

"The Desert Shall Rejoice" By Malcolm Archer

The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as a rose: it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with praise and singing. For the ears of the deaf shall hear, and the eyes of the blind shall be opened. For the tongue of the dumb shall sing, and the lame will dance for joy. For the ground will become a pool, and the dry land will become springs of water. As the ransomed return to the Lord, they shall come back singing unto Zion with joy.

The Assembly stands and sings Verses 4 & 5 as the gifts are brought forward.



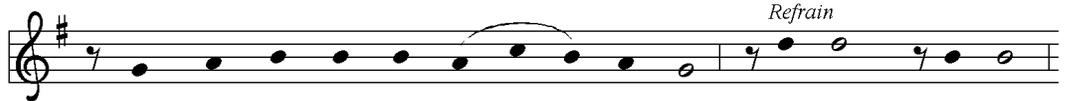
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Sing verses 4 & 5 only



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-joyce! Re-joyce!
 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*

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.
 L Nourishing God,
 you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
 Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
 that we may rejoice and be for the world
 signs of your kingdom come.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

S144a

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

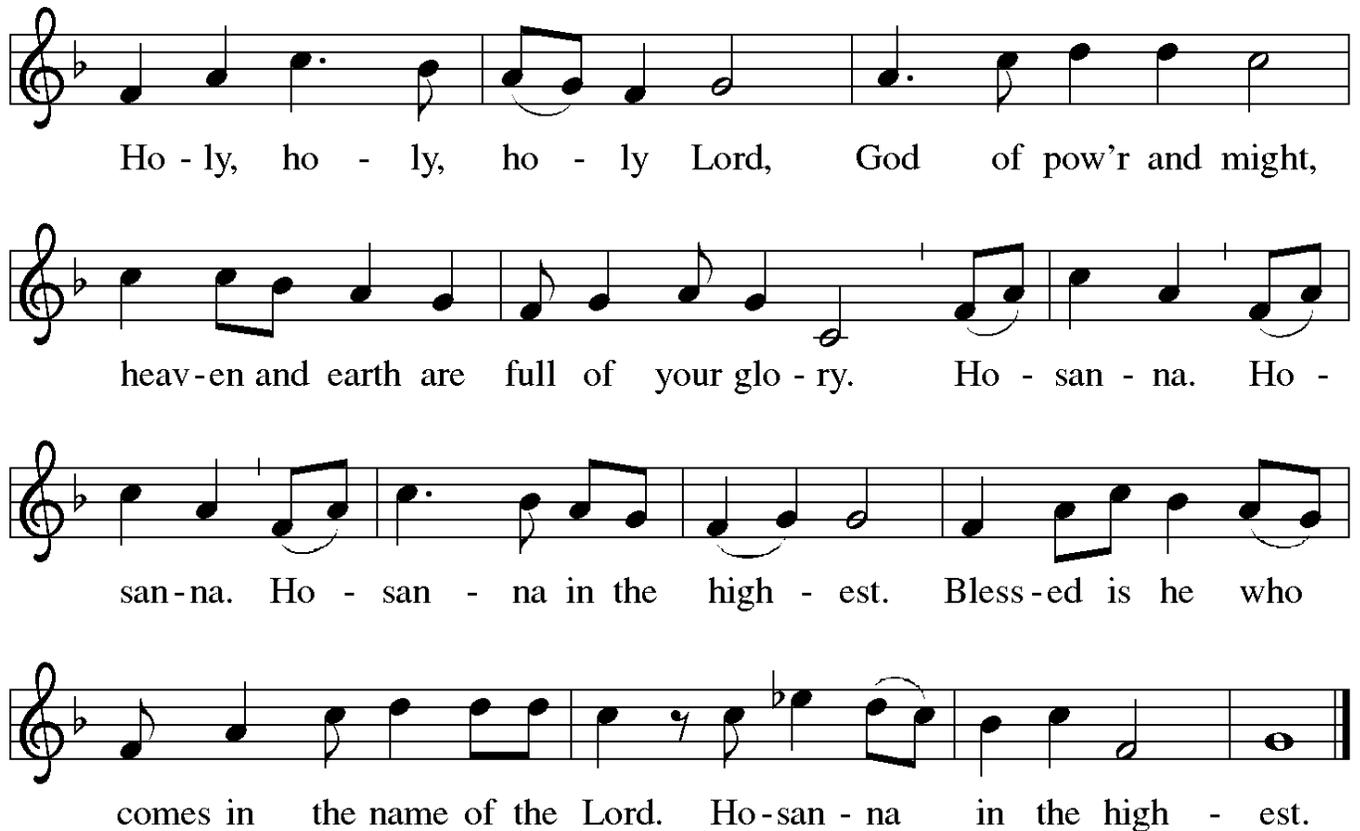
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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. Ho -
san-na. 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.

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.

A



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

The Lord's Prayer

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

**A Our Loving God in heaven, Father and Mother of us all,
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 Here is life. Immanuel. God is with us.

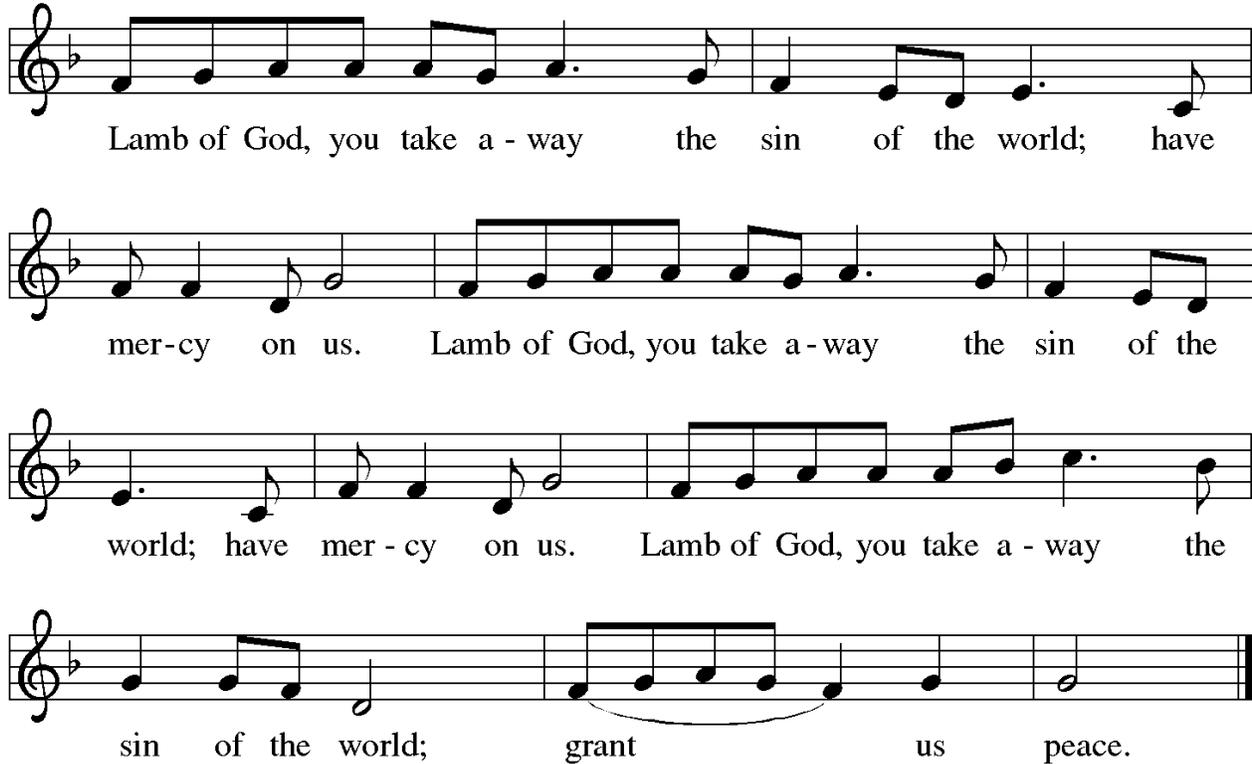
A  **We come to receive what God has promised.**

The Assembly is seated.

Communion Song

Lamb of God

S146



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.

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 sings the hymn.



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
 2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
 3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
 4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
 part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
 foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
 birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
 dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
 cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
 tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
 sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
 not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

The Assembly stands as directed.

Blessing after Communion

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

A Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray...

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

A Amen.

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

Blessing

P May God who comes among us,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

A  **Amen.**

This week's commemorations....

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Sunday, December 14, 2025

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)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

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.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

From sundaysandseasons.com.



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Keep awake.

A **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying” by Aaron David Miller

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

Today's refreshments are hosted by the Chatain Family.

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 Minister The Rev. Mark Sloss
- Assisting Minister Elora Kloster
- Lector Kathryn Skelton
- Acolyte Kit McCarthy
- Organist..... Christine Kraemer
- Music Director James Morehead
- Table Preparation Kathryn Skelton
- Zoom Host Jerry Larson
- Audio-Visual Technician Kevin McDaniel
- Ushers Nicholai Schousboe
- Counters..... Kit McCarthy

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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, Dec. 15	Tai-chi Class	6:30 am
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Tai-Chi Class	9:30 am
	Midweek Group Bible Study	2:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Tai-chi Class	6:30 am
	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
	Midweek Advent Holden Prayer	7:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 18	Daytime Quilters	9:00 am
Friday, Dec. 19	Tai-chi Class	6:30 am
Saturday, Dec. 20	Indoor Farmers’ Market	8:00 am
Sunday, Dec. 21-Advent 4	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	New Community Church	1:00 pm
	New Community Church Event	3:00 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, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Laura McDaniel, 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 worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!