



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Midweek Advent Service 4
Living Nativity Service



Wednesday, December 22, 2021– 6:30pm

“Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ
through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Welcome to Immanuel!

Please turn off your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you!

If you are a guest, please fill out a visitor's card located in the cardholder on the back of each pew. During the offering, place this card in the offering plate. As you leave, please introduce yourself to the pastors.

Members, please help us love and care for one another by filling out one of our attendance cards. Remember to include all the members of your family who are present in worship today. Thank you for filling out an Attendance card every time you attend Church—it helps us keep good records.

PRESERVICE MUSIC / BELLS / WELCOME

+ EVENING PRAYER +

Hymnal Supplement '98, pg. 17

Please stand

SERVICE OF LIGHT

L: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

L: All those who await His appearance pray:

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

L: The whole creation pleads:

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

HYMN



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,

With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,

Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,



PSALMODY [Psalm 121]

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

HYMN, LSB 343, “Prepare the Royal Highway”

OLD TESTAMENT READING, Isaiah 51:2-4

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴“Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING, 1 Thess. 5:17-19

¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL, Luke 1:67-80

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” ⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

L: In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: **But now in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O blessed Lord and gift of God, open our eyes to behold, our minds to receive, and our hearts to believe the treasure of grace that is come to us in the birth of Your own Son in flesh and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O gracious Giver and precious Gift, enlighten the darkness of our lives and bring Your joy to our downcast hearts, that we may be renewed in body and soul and walk in Your light all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O hidden God who has revealed to us Yourself in Your Son, keep us from searching for another or seeking truth beyond the Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life for us and for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O merciful God, forgive our sins and especially the casual way we treat the precious gift of Your only Son. Strengthen our conviction and equip us with courage to do Your bidding, to share the Good News of Jesus, and proclaim His salvation to every people in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O compassionate Lord, we are broken, wounded, and live in the shadow of death. Give healing to the sick (*especially...*), comfort to the sorrowful, peace to the dying that all who call upon Your name may be renewed in body and soul, sustained in the day of trouble, and kept by Your grace to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING

HYMN, *LSB* 361, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

SERMON, “Waiting Upon the Lord with Gratitude”

+ LIVING NATIVITY +



SCENE 1: MARY & JOSEPH (Luke 2:1-7)

HYMN VERSE, *LSB* 363 v. 1, “Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

SCENE 2: ANGEL & SHEPHERDS (Luke 2:8-14)

HYMN VERSE, *LSB* 363 v. 2, “Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

SCENE 3: SHEPHERDS AT THE MANGER (Luke 2:15-16)

HYMN VERSE, *LSB* 363 v. 3, “Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

SCENE 4: SHEPHERDS REJOICING (Luke 2:17-20)

CLOSING HYMN, *LSB* 387, “Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
 And heav’n and nature sing,
 And heav’n and nature sing,
 And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders of His love.**

WORSHIP HELPERS

PREACHER – Rev. Merritt Demski
 LITURGIST – Rev. Dr. Tony Troup
 MUSIC DIRECTOR – Mrs. Ann Frank
 ACOLYTES – Jensyn Collmeyer & Trinity Drewes
 USHERS – Chuck Keller, Larry Taake, Dawn Rubemeyer
 GUITARISTS – Paul Broske, Brittany Buettner, Cal Neeman
 Media/Facebook Live – Cathy Whelan, Greg Hoeffken
 LIVING NATIVITY ACTORS –
 NARRATOR – Gina Birrittier
 MARY – Mindy Bradley
 JOSEPH – Tyson Bradley
 BABY JESUS – Vada Bradley
 ANGELS – Carolina Bradley, Ashlyn Whelan
 SHEPHERDS – Don Birrittier, Joey Birrittier, Wayne
 Hargrave, Bob Polansky

Thank you to Gayle Mesnarich and her family for constructing and painting the large stable used in this service!

Thank you for attending this special Living Nativity Service!
 Come join us on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm or 7:30 pm, and on
 Christmas Day at 9:00 am! All are welcome!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL – WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

immanuelwaterloo.org

e-mail: immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com

Rev. Merritt Demski, Administrative Pastor	939-6480 or 847-254-9666
Rev. Dr. Tony Troup, Associate Pastor	939-6480 or 618-340-8375
Travis Henry, 4 th Year Field Education Student	716-223-0496
Lisa Clamors, Secretary	939-6480 or 618-719-4954
Ann Frank, Music Director	939-6480 or 618-282-6597
Linda Polansky, Preschool Director	939-6480 or 618-980-3475