



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Christmas Day



Sunday, December 25, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

“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 guests' 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. If you are communing, please check in the appropriate place. Thank you for filling out an Attendance-Communion card every time you attend Church—it helps us keep good records.

We celebrate Holy Communion today! In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of our common confession of the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the pastor before or after the service.

If for health or personal reasons you cannot drink wine, the lighter colored glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups contain water with a drop of wine. These special glasses allow communicants to celebrate the Lord's Supper according to Christ's institution, but have a very small amount of alcohol.

Worship at Immanuel is...

Christ Centered. We believe that at the heart of worship is the Good News that God has rescued us from our sins through Jesus' death on the cross and rising to life again.

Trinitarian. We believe that the object of worship is the only true God-The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Multigenerational. We believe that it is a great blessing for family members to worship together. Taking seriously Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and so not forbid them" (Mark 10:14), we encourage children to worship with their parents and grandparents and provide resources such as children's bulletins and children's sermons.

Eclectic. Eclectic means, "selecting what seems best of various sources." We believe that we should strive to use the best hymns and practices that the church has to offer. Our worship may include hymns written 500 years ago as well as pieces written 5 months ago.

In preparation for worship we ask that you silence your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you.

The time before service begins can be a good time to pray and prepare your heart and mind for worship. You will find helpful prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal located in the pew in front of you.

PRESERVICE MUSIC [Saxophone Duet (Elden & Daniel Niemeyer),
“On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing,” arr. D. Whitman]

BELLS / WELCOME

Please stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN, LSB 379, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Psalm 124:8; 30:3-4)

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)

C: **Amen.**

INTROIT OF THE DAY (Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HYMN OF PRAISE, LSB 391, “Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn” [Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937. Text: Public domain]

**1 Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn,
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory!
His lowly birth in Bethlehem**

**The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption's story!
My soul, extol
God's great favor;
Bless Him ever
For salvation;
Give Him praise and adoration!**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

(2 Tim. 4:22)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING, Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE, Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than

theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” ⁷Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” ¹⁰And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

(John 20:31)

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

C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

HOLY GOSPEL, John 1:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY, LSB 386, “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

SERMON, John 1:1-18, “Getting Close to God”

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: *(Special petitions...)* Lord, in Your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**
P: Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom
we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: **Amen.**

OFFERING [Piano Selection (Ava Hemmer), “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” (traditional carol)]

OFFERTORY, *LSB* 358 v. 13-15, “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” [Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain]

**13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.**

**14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord’s Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1)
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (Psalm 136)
 C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have given to us and all creation. This day we rejoice with the heavenly host as they proclaim the glad tidings of great joy, knowing that the Word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. Your holy Child, who entered our world that first Christmas, comes unto us again this day in His body and blood as we are drawn unto Your holy presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



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.

(*Hosanna* is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now.")

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

All: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in
 heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us**

our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD (Matt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

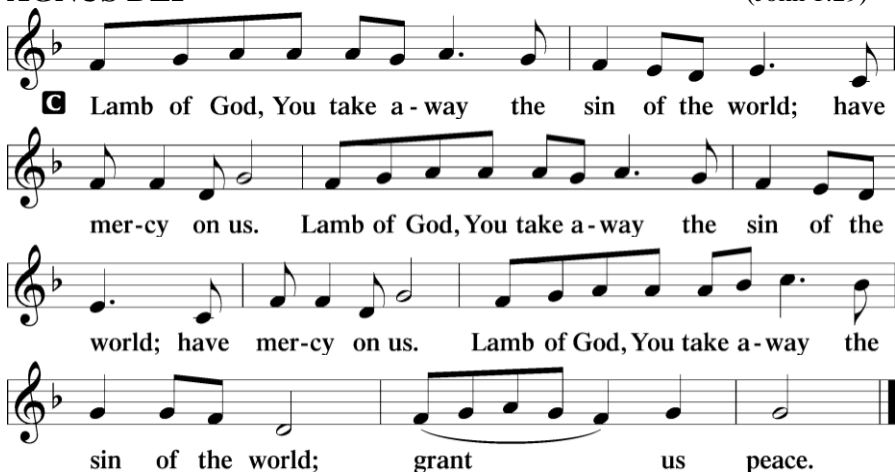
PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. (John 20:19)

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(John 1:29)



☐ 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.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 367, "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB 393, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

LSB 364, "Away in a Manger"

Please stand

DISMISSAL

P: Now...Go in peace.

C: Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

(Luke 2:29-32)



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry it, Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

(Psalm 103:1)

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN, LSB 388, “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

BELLS / POSTLUDE

We invite you to take the service folder and announcements home with you as you leave today so you can see what's happening this week as well as meditate on the Scriptures, prayers, and hymns from today's service as you go through the week. You can also find helpful information on our church website: immanuelwaterloo.org.

Worship Helpers

Sunday, December 25, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Rodney Clamors

Acolyte - Trinity Drewes

Ushers - Chuck Keller, Craig Mehner, Larry Taake, Dawn Rubemeyer

Altar Guild - Sandy Thompson

Music Director - Ann Frank

French Horn - Joyce Rossel

Saxophones - Elden & Daniel Niemeyer

Media/Facebook Live - Lisa Clamors

Ushers - Sunday, January 1, 2023

7:45 a.m. - Lee Eggemeyer, Adam Eggemeyer, Trinity Drewes, Evan Williams

10:15 a.m. - Alan Stumpf, Paul Broske Sr., Tom McDaniel

Acolytes - Sunday, January 1, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Lorelei Griffin

Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Ayda & Myla Eggemeyer

Sunday 10:15 a.m. - *need acolytes*

Servers - Sunday, January 1, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Chuck Keller

Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Rodney Clamors

Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Warren Frank

Media - Sunday, January 1, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - *need someone*

Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Don Birrittier

Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Clark Deptula

Lectors - Sunday, January 1, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - n/a

Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Rodney Clamors

Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Warren Frank

Altar Guild - Sunday, January 1, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Susan Starbuck

Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Barbara Altes

Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Susan Hargrave

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL – WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

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Rev. Merritt Demski, Administrative Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tony Troup, Associate Pastor

Travis Henry, Fourth Year Field Education Student

Mrs. Lisa Clamors, Secretary

Mrs. Ann Frank, Music Director

Mrs. Linda Polansky, Preschool Director

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