



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

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**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
*Christmas Day*



**Monday, December 25, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

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“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.*

## **DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE**

*(Lutheran Service Book, pg. 151)*

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** [Saxophone Duet (Elden & Daniel Niemeyer), “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” & “Away in a Manger” (both arr. L. Larson)]

### **BELLS**

### **WELCOME**

*Please stand*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN, LSB 380, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

### **INVOCATION**

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

**C:** **Amen.** (Matthew 28:19b; [18:20])

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (1 John 1:8-9)

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C:** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

**P:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C:** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal**

**punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**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;

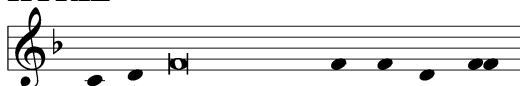
**and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

# KYRIE

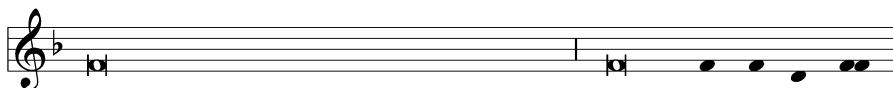
(Mark 10:47)



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



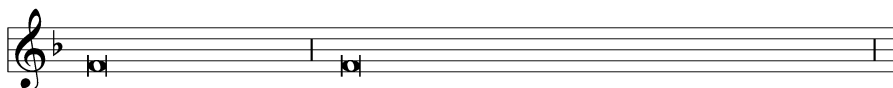
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



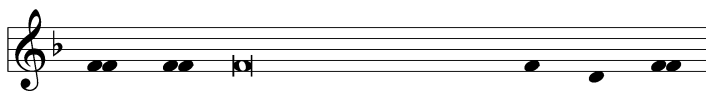
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** A - men.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-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, 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,



## 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.**

*Please be seated*

**SAXOPHONE DUET, “O Come, All Ye Faithful,”** arr. L. Larson

(Elden & Daniel Niemeyer)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING, Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How 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.” <sup>8</sup>The 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. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The 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

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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. <sup>3</sup>He 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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For 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"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." <sup>10</sup>And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup>like 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 6:68)

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.

## HOLY GOSPEL, John 1:1-14

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Please be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY, LSB 375, “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”**

## **SERMON**

*Please stand*

### **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.

### **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.**


*Please be seated*

**OFFERING** [Piano Selection (Ava Hemmer), “O Holy Night,” arr. Adam]

*Please stand*

**OFFERTORY**

(Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19)



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

**+ 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.**

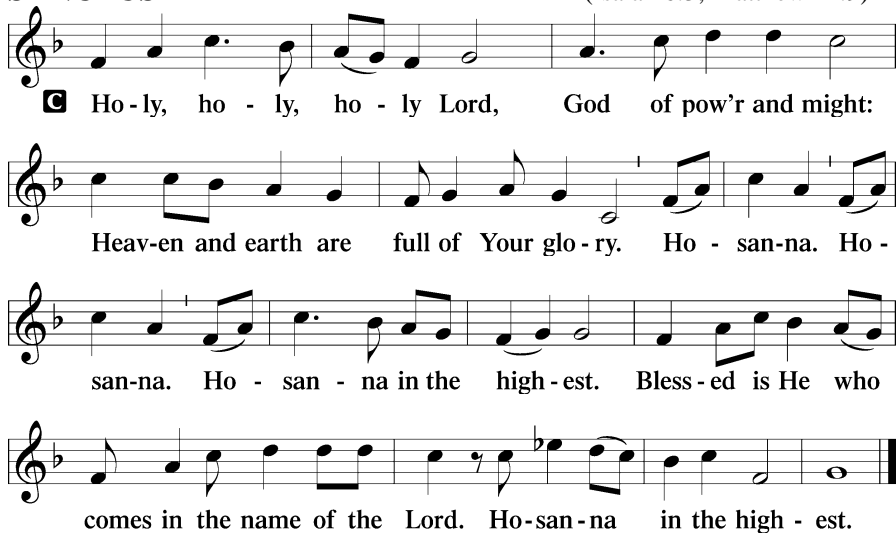
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (Psalm 136)  
 C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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)

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

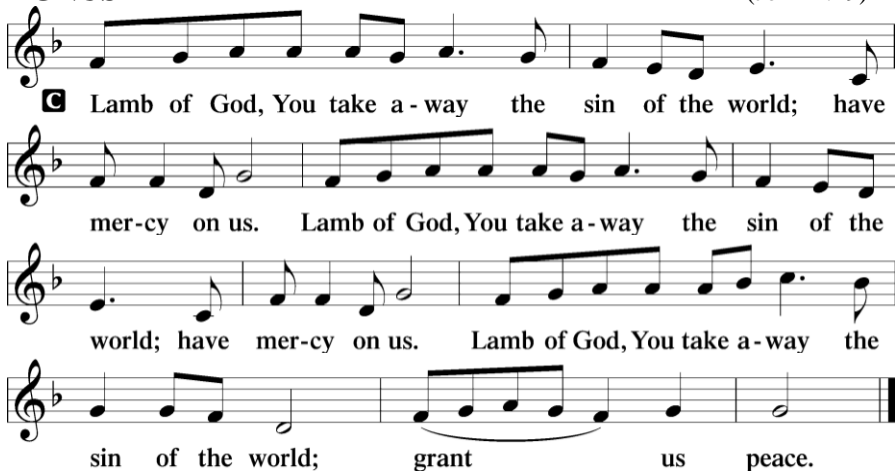
## PAX DOMINI

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



## AGNUS DEI

(John 1:29)



*Please be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 376, "Once in Royal David's City"

LSB 368, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Please stand*

## DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood...Go in peace.

C: Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P:** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**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 386, “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

**BELLS**

**POSTLUDE** [Saxophone Duet (Elden & Daniel Niemeyer), “Rejoice and Sing Noel,” arr. L. Larson]

*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](http://immanuelwaterloo.org).*

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**Worship Helpers**

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**Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski	Music Director - Ann Frank
Server - Dean Harbison	Media/Facebook Live - Lisa Clamors
Acolytes - Colton Glessner & Michael Evers	Crucifer - TJ Joellenbeck
Ushers - Elden Niemeyer, Wayne Hargrave, Warren Frank, Daniel Niemeyer	
Altar Guild - Susan Hargrave	Saxophone - Elden & Daniel Niemeyer

**Ushers - Sunday, December 31, 2023**

7:45 a.m. - Jason Valerius, Jeriah Fink, Trinity Drewes, Brielle Fink  
10:15 a.m. - Rodney Clamors, Jenna & Nicholas Hoeffken, Masson Fink

**Acolytes - Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Audrey Braun  
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Liam Garner & Brady Drewes  
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Brielle Fink & Jeriah Fink

**Servers - Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Cal Neeman  
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Bob Polansky  
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Doug Simms

**Media - Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Gwen Wiegand  
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Ayda Eggemeyer  
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Carson Filipiak

**Lectors - Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - n/a  
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Don Birrittier  
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Daniel Niemeyer

**Altar Guild - Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Diana Heins  
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Barbara Altes  
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Linda Gutknecht

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL – WATERLOO, ILLINOIS**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

[immanuelwaterloo.org](http://immanuelwaterloo.org)

e-mail: [immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com)

Rev. Merritt Demski, Administrative Pastor	939-6480 or 847-254-9666
Ben Biegler, First Year Field Education Student	
Mrs. Lisa Clamors, Secretary	939-6480 or 618-719-4954
Mrs. Ann Frank, Music Director	939-6480 or 618-282-6597
Mrs. Linda Polansky, Preschool Director	939-6480 or 618-980-3475