



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Fourth Sunday in Advent

And the angel answered
her, "The Holy Spirit will
come upon you, and the
power of the Most High
will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be
born will be called holy—
the Son of God.

Luke 1:35



Saturday, December 23, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 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 and then place it in the offering plate. We look forward to meeting you!

Members, please help us love and care for one another by filling out an attendance card. 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.

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. This Holy Communion is also a sign of our shared confession of the Christian faith. If you have not communed with us before, please speak with one of our pastors before doing so.

During the communion service: If you're not able to 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 Four

(*Lutheran Service Book*, pg. 203)

Preservice Music [9:00 a.m. – Piano Selections, “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” (traditional) and “What Child Is This?” arr. M. Mier (Collin Dethrow)]

Bells

Welcome

Opening Hymn, *LSB* 357, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Please stand

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

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

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.** (Psalm 124:8)

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.**
(Psalm 130:3-4)

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

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. (Luke 18:13)

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.**

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit of the Day

(Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b)

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down
righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down
righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Kyrie

(Mark 10:47)



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Advent Hymn, “We Light the Advent Candle” [Tune: *LSB 343*]

Text: Lisa M. Clark. Text: © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CCLI no. 1102860

- 1 We light the Advent candle
And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**

- 2 We light the Advent candle
And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus
Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing
Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**
- 3 We light the Advent candle
And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message—
A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending;
The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**
- 4 We light the Advent candle
And share the wondrous Word.
With love, we tell of Jesus
Till all around have heard.
God’s love is for each nation
Throughout His whole creation.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you! (2 Timothy 4:22)

C And also with you!

P Let us pray...

C **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your
might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly
lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading, 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell

in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle, Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse

(John 20:31)





Holy Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

After the reading:

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

Children's Message (Parents of young children may also come forward with their children.)

Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 356, "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Sermon

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 (*You can place your offering in the plate in the narthex or mail it to the church anytime.*)

Offertory, *LSB* 956, "Create in Me"

Text: Psalm 51:10-12. Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



✠ 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

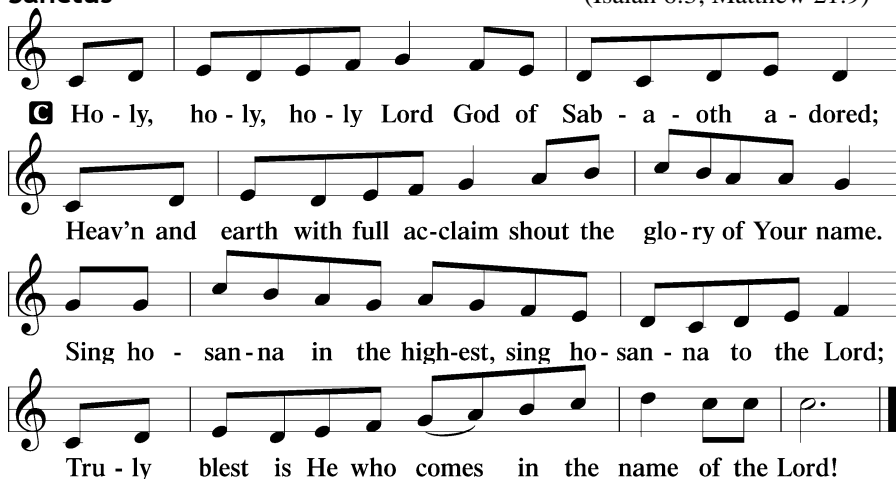
- P** The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1)
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (Psalm 136)
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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)



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho- san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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

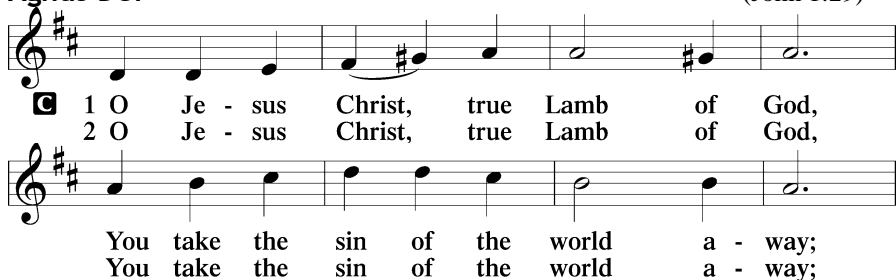
(Matt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

The Peace of the Lord

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

Agnus Dei

(John 1:29)



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated

Distribution Hymns

LSB 370, "What Child Is This"

LSB 345, "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

Please stand

Dismissal

P The body and blood...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 lead 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 -



Post-Communion Collect

P

Let us pray.

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 in 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.

Closing Hymn, *LSB* 354, “Arise, O Christian People”

Bells / Postlude

Acknowledgments

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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

Saturday, December 23, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Greg Wiegand

Altar Guild - Marilyn Collette

Pianist - Ron Jones

Acolyte - Gwen Wiegand

Media - Melissa Wiegand

Sunday, December 24, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Media/Facebook Live - Cathy Whelan

Music Director - Ann Frank

Worship Helpers – Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Rodney Clamors

Acolytes - Myla & Henry Eggemeyer

Ushers - Allen Jacobs, Don & Gina Birrittier

Altar Guild - Debbie Olsson

Music Director - Ann Frank

Media - Lisa Clamors

Crucifer - Ayda Eggemeyer

Worship Helpers – Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Warren Frank

Acolytes - Jacob Dethrow & Nash Bradley

Ushers - Alan Jacobs, Tom McDaniel, Paul Broske Sr., Collin Dethrow

Altar Guild - Carol Kassel

Music Director - Ann Frank

Media - Lorelei Griffin

Crucifer - Keaton Roberts

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

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Dean Harbison

Acolytes - Colton Glessner & Michael Evers

Ushers - Elden Niemeyer, Wayne Hargrave, Warren Frank, Daniel Niemeyer

Altar Guild - Susan Hargrave

Music Director - Ann Frank

Media/Facebook Live - Lisa Clamors

Crucifer - TJ Joellenbeck

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

e-mail: immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com

Rev. Merritt Demski, Pastor

Mr. Ben Biegler, 1st year Field Education Student

Mrs. Lisa Clamors, Office Secretary

Mrs. Ann Frank, Music Director

Mrs. Linda Polansky, Preschool Director

939-6480 or 847-254-9666

939-6480 or 618-719-4954

939-6480 or 618-282-6597

939-6480 or 618-980-3475

Christmas Eve & Christmas Services

SUNDAY, DEC. 24
4:00 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.
MONDAY, DEC. 25
9:00 A.M.



Christmas Cards of Love

The Board of Social Ministry invites the congregation to join them in brightening the Christmas season for our shut-in and homebound members. They will be delivering goody bags to each shut-in and homebound member on Sunday, December 3rd. In addition to this gift, we are asking the members of Immanuel to remember them as well.

Please consider sending a Christmas card during this Christmas season. Your help will brighten their Christmas and extend the love of Immanuel to them.

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP
Altes, Gary	419 Sycamore Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Binder, Nina	406 Avington Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Chitty, Donna	5326 Konarcik Road	Waterloo, IL 62298
Clamors, Helen	6703 Susewind Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Dietzel, Marie	832 Cheshire Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Henry, Marvin & Carolyn	411 Janice Drive	Waterloo, IL 62298
Hitzemann, Judy	611 Morrison Ave.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Jarvis, Beverly	Magnolia Terrace, 623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Jones, Pat	246A Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Knoke, Gloria	1038 Gall Road	Waterloo, IL 62298
Lloyd, Charlie & Phyllis	2658 State Route 156	Waterloo, IL 62298
Menke, Millie	1052 Country Club Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Mesnarich, Iva	Cedar Trails, 490 Urbanna Dr	Freeburg, IL 62243
Moore, Sandy	1602 Berkley Lane	Belleville, IL 62226
Netzeband, Jack & Kathy	624 Hartman Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Orsech, Edith	623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Rabbermann, Lois	1020 Turtle Dove Trail	Waterloo, IL 62298
Bush, Rosemary	526 Legacy Dr.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Ruff, Gladys	735 Columbia Ave, Apt 32	Waterloo, IL 62298
Prigge, Arnold	835 Circle Drive	Red Bud, IL 62278
Prigge, Jackie	623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298