



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

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**Christmas Eve**



**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.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.*

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** [4:00 p.m. – Piano Selection (Collin Dethrow), “Joy to the World,” arr. N. & R. Faber; 7:30 p.m. – Agape Ringers, “O Holy Night,” arr. L. Lamb and “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” arr. J. Behnke]

## **BELLS**

## **WELCOME / GREETING**

*Please stand and face the processional cross*

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

## **OPENING SENTENCES** (Isaiah 9:2; 2 Samuel 22:29)

**P:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**C:** **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

**P:** You are my lamp, O LORD,

**C:** **and my God lightens my darkness.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (Romans 13:11-12)

**P:** The apostle Paul reminds us, “You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” In order to hear again the beautiful Good News of how the Savior of the world came to save us all, let us confess our need to hear, to repent of our sin and to believe.

**C:** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, I confess to You once again this night that I have walked in the**

**darkness of sin, that I have sinned in the shadows of my conscience and in words and actions toward others; all of it in disobedience to Your commands. I pray You to send forth the light and truth of Your Son, my Savior. Have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

**P:** The Lord sends out His light and His truth to find you and to save you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

### **INTROIT OF THE DAY**

(Psalm 96:1-4a, 6; antiphon: v. 1)

Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

**sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

**tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,

**his marvelous works among all the peoples!**

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; Splendor and majesty are before him;

**strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

**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.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

**sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE, LSB 393, “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

**1 Infant holy,  
Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing,**

Little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging,  
Angels singing,  
Bells are ringing,  
Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping,  
Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory,  
Heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing,  
Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

### **SALUTATION AND COLLECT**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray.

**All:** O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same 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*

(4:00 p.m.) **VOCAL ENSEMBLE**, “Where Shepherds Lately Kneelt” (Vajda/Schalk)

(7:30 p.m.) **CHOIR ANTHEM**, “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
(J.A. Black)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**, Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE**, Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

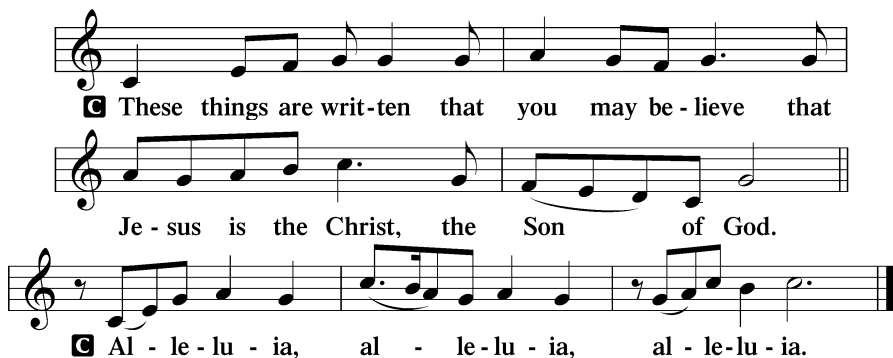
C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

(John 20:31)





## HOLY GOSPEL, Luke 2:1-20

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

## GOSPEL HYMN, *LSB* 933, “My Soul Rejoices”

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fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion  
bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the  
ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the  
sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring  
Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

<sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## NICENE CREED

**All:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.



**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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

**SERMON, “Whoever has the Son-----gets it all!” ---based on Luke 1**

*Please stand*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(LSB 351:1-2, 5-6)*

**P:** Let us pray.

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people’s everlasting Light:

**C: O Christ, Redeemer, save us all and hear Thy servants when they call.**

**P:** O God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, the wonder and beauty of Your creation is surpassed only by

the awe and miracle that You became one with us in the incarnation of the Son of God, the Son of Mary. Thou, grieving that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,

**C: hast found the healing, full of grace, to cure and save our ruined race.**

P: O Jesus Christ, true Son of God, You came into the world to save sinners. Come now to us in Word and Sacrament to give us life by living in us.

O Thou, whose coming is with dread to judge the living and the dead,

**C: preserve us from the ancient foe while still we dwell on earth below.**

P: O Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, move us to truly repent of our sins and more truly to be filled with faith in Christ, our life.

As the angels revealed to Mary and Joseph the miracle of Your visitation and to the shepherds the majesty of the incarnation of Your Son and to the Wise Men the holiness of the gift of Your salvation, so continue to send forth preachers of Your Word and witnesses of Your truth, that many may come to believe in Your love and receive eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Inspire those whom you send to preach and proclaim Your salvation, that they may remain steadfast in the clarity and purpose of Your Word. Fill the entire earth with the beautiful news of Your grace and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For all who are in any need—all who suffer illness, injury, or any adversity—send Your healing and help, forgiveness and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Give to all who have died in Christ Your safekeeping and peace. Bring us all at last to the great joy of our resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C:**    **hear our prayer.**  
**P:**    To God the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
**C:**    **praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING** [7:30 p.m. – Choir Anthem, “Oh, Sing a Song of Bethlehem” (M. Larkin)]

**OFFERTORY**, *LSB* 361 v. 1 & 4, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 1    O little town of Bethlehem,  
      How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
      The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
      The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
      Are met in thee tonight.**
- 4    O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
      Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
      Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
      The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
      Our Lord Immanuel!**

**✠ 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.*

*Please stand*

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

## 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.

## THE 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)

**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 us, 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 364, "Away in a Manger"

LSB 368, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB 370, "What Child Is This"

LSB 374, "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

*(Please remain seated until the Benediction.)*

## DISMISSAL

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

C: **Amen.**

## 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.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING *The Light of Christ has come to His people.*

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
*Isaiah 9: 2*

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** *John 1:5*

P: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2b*

C: **We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.** *John 1:14b*

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. *Isaiah 9:6*

C: **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.** *John 1:4*

*(The Pastor will give light from his candle to the ushers. They will in turn give light to the worshiper nearest the aisle, who will pass it on to the others in that pew. Please keep the lighted candle upright to avoid dripping wax.)*

*(The lights are dimmed.)*

**HYMN, LSB 363, “Silent Night, Holy Night”** (7:30 p.m. – accompanied by the Agape Ringers) *[The words will be on the screens.]*

*(Please extinguish your candles as the lights are turned on.)*

*Please stand*

## **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** [“Silent Night, Holy Night,” arr. Zimmermann]

*(Please be seated while the ushers dismiss by pews.)*

*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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### **Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.**

Pastor - Rev. Brian Downs

Servers - Rodney Clamors & Howard Shive

Acolytes/Torchbearers - Lorelei & Avery Griffin

Ushers - Jason Valerius, Trinity Drewes, Dusty Dethrow, Davin Dethrow, Jacob Dethrow

Altar Guild - Barbara Altes

Music Director - Ann Frank

Lector - Rodney Clamors

Crucifer - Will Hanks

Media - Liam Garner

### **Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.**

Pastor - Rev. Brian Downs

Servers - Greg Wiegand & Warren Frank

Acolytes - Rosie Fink & Gwen Wiegand

Ushers - Masson Fink, Jeriah Fink, Brielle Fink, Wyatt Fink, Evan Fink

Altar Guild - Linda Gutknecht

Music Director - Ann Frank

Lector - Warren Frank

Crucifer - Logan Kettler

Media/Facebook Live - Melissa Wiegand

### **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL – WATERLOO, ILLINOIS**

#### **LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

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Rev. Brian Downs, Vacancy Pastor

Mrs. Lisa Clamors, Office Admin.

Mrs. Ann Frank, Music Director

Mrs. Linda Polansky, Preschool Director

618-939-6480 or 618-920-6657

618-939-6480 or 618-719-4954

618-939-6480 or 618-282-6597

618-939-6480 or 618-980-3475



*Please join us for a special Christmas Day service tomorrow morning!*



*This coming weekend, Dec. 28-29, there will only be one worship service at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. Hope to see you there and at the Christmas Brunch afterwards!*