



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Saturday, December 22, 2018 – 5:30 pm
Sunday, December 23, 2018 – 7:45 am

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

Welcome to Immanuel!

Guest/Member Cards can be found in the card holder of the pew in front of you. We invite you to fill out the card and place it in the offering plate when we receive the offering. When you fill out these cards each week you make it possible for our pastors to more easily follow up with and provide pastoral care for our guests and members from week to week. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Holy Communion is distributed every Saturday evening, and at either the 7:45 am or 10:15 am service on Sunday mornings. 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, while only consuming a very small amount of alcohol. You are also welcome to practice intinction (dipping the edge of the host [bread] into the common cup as it passes by).

Immanuel's Saturday evening service is a bit less formal than our Sunday services. Therefore, you will notice there are no ushers, the offering plate is left in the narthex (entrance) of the church rather than being passed during service, and we have only two individuals distributing Holy Communion. On Saturday night we only use the chalice (common cup) during Holy Communion. If for health or personal reasons you cannot drink wine, you're welcome to practice intinction. Intinction involves dipping the edge of the host (bread) into the wine. In this way, the communicant receives both elements. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the pastor before or after the service.

Worship at Immanuel is...

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.

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

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.

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 / Bells / Welcome

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

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

(based on Luke 3:4-6)

P Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Make His paths straight.

P Every valley shall be filled,

C and every mountain and hill made low.

P The crooked shall become straight,

C and the rough places shall become level ways.

P All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

C We wait for Christ’s return and the resurrection of all flesh.

P Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

(Luke 3:6; Psalm 66:1-2)

P In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. As we wait for His coming, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence, how crooked our world has become, and how unjust are our relationships. We come before the Lord in humility.

Silence for reflection.

P Heavenly Father,

C we confess that we have strayed from Your path. We have been selfish and cruel. We have treated our neighbors with

injustice and prejudice. We have oppressed the weak in order to gain power. We long to return to You, but how are we to return?

P As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he said, “All flesh shall see the salvation of God.” God sent Jesus to bring salvation to the world through His death and resurrection. This salvation is complete, and Christ comes to you once again with forgiveness, life, and salvation. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: 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.

C **Amen. “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!”**

+ Service of the Word +

Introit of the Day (1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47)

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

My mouth derides my enemies,

because I rejoice in your salvation.

There is none holy like the LORD;

there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

The barren has borne seven,

but she who has many children is forlorn.

The LORD kills and brings to life;

he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich;

he brings low and he exalts.

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.

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Advent Candle Hymn, “We Light the Advent Candle”

[Text: Lisa M. Clark. Copyright © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.]

**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!**

**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!**

**We light the Advent candle And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message That God would us impart.
Our joy is never ending; The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

**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 all nations Throughout His whole creation.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

Collect of the Day

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

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

**All: 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, Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And

they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle, Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” ⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Holy Gospel, Luke 1:39-56

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

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

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

Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 357 v. 1-5, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Sermon, Luke 1:39-56, "Blessed by the Fruit"

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

(Luke 19:38)

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

Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from their enslavement, that they serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

C **and ransom captive Israel.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

C **who orders all things mightily.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace

and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,

C **who gave the Law on Sinai's height.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,

C **free us from Satan's tyranny.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,

C **and open wide our heav'nly home.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

C **and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;

C **bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.**

P *(Special petitions...)* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

C **Amen.**

(Saturday – Please remain standing; Sunday – Please be seated)

Offering *(5:30 pm – Please place your offerings in the plate in the narthex before or after the service.)*

Please stand

Offertory/Response to Prayer, LSB 357 v. 6-7, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain***

+ 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory.

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 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

(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)

The Peace of the Lord

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

C Amen.

Please be seated

Distribution Hymn

LSB 332, “Savior of the Nations, Come”

Please stand

Dismissal

P Now may this...Go in peace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P 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 look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn, LSB 921, “On What Has Now Been Sown”

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

Saturday, December 22, 2018 - 5:30 pm

Preacher - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Cal Neeman

Media -

Pianist - Ron Jones

Acolyte - Sarah Alu

Sunday, December 23, 2018 - 7:45 am

Preacher - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server/Lector - Warren Frank

Acolytes - Blake Nichols & Brayden Richey

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

Media - Kelley Keller (with recording)

Celebrant - Rev. Dr. Tony Troup

Greeters - Barb & Courtney Heimburger

Organist - Ann Frank

Worship Helpers - Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018 - 4:00 pm

Server - Chuck Keller

Acolytes - Jenna & Nicholas Hoeffken

Media - Kelley Keller

Ushers - Bill Stueve, Charles Lloyd, Kevin Whelan

Lector - Ollney Mueller, Jr.

Altar Guild - Janet & Louise

Greeters - Charles & Phyllis Lloyd

Worship Helpers - Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018 - 7:30 pm

Server - Warren Frank

Lector - Karen Hodapp

Ushers - Rodney & Lisa Clamors, Paul Hoeffken, Evan Fink

Altar Guild - Shirley & Susan H

Media - Lisa Clamors (with recording)

Acolytes - Ali Kloeppe & Brayden Richey

Worship Helpers - Christmas Day, December 25, 2018 - 9:00 am

Server/Lector - Rodney Clamors

Acolytes - Reese Downing & Madalyn Prather

Ushers - Roy Unterseh, Dennis & Raymond Brandt, Jim Stueve, Ed Arras

Altar Guild - Barbara & Deb

Media - Lisa Clamors (with recording)

Crucifer - Lilly Prather

Ushers - Sunday, December 30, 2018

7:45 am - Jason & Nick Valerius, Tim Troup, Tyler Cooley

10:15 am - Alan Stumpf, Ian Schrader, Paul Broske Sr.

Acolytes - Sunday, December 30, 2018

Saturday 5:30 pm - Charli Major

Sunday 7:45 am - H. Kettler & H. Morris

Sunday 10:15 am - Addie & Ben Janssen

Servers - Sunday, December 30, 2018

Saturday 5:30 pm - Greg Wiegand

Sunday 7:45 am - n/a

Sunday 10:15 am - Warren Frank

Media - Sunday, December 30, 2018

Saturday 5:30 pm - Greg Hoeffken

Sunday 7:45 am - Tyler Cooley (with recording)

Sunday 10:15 am - Pam Nagel

Lectors - Sunday, December 30, 2018

Saturday 5:30 pm - n/a

Sunday 7:45 am - Wayne Collmeyer

Sunday 10:15 am - Warren Frank

Altar Guild - Sunday, December 30, 2018

Saturday 5:30 pm - Susan Starbuck

Sunday 7:45 am - n/a

Sunday 10:15 am - Linda Gutknecht

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

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