

# Peace

“Glory to God  
in the highest  
heaven, and on  
earth peace to  
those on whom  
his favor rests.”

*Luke 2:14, NIV*



# Immanuel Lutheran Church



***Making known by Word and Action  
The Healing Presence of God  
And Christ Jesus  
With us and with the world***



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When we celebrate Holy Communion, we are eating and drinking the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins. Because the Bible says it is possible for someone to eat and drink to their harm if their understanding of the sacrament is lacking, we ask our visitors to speak with our Pastor before communing here for the first time. Ask an usher to help you find our Pastor before the service begins or call during the week.



***WELCOME*** to all guests and members; we are glad that you are here to worship with us and hope you will return often as *our friends in Christ!*

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING THE PEACE** – *We share a brief greeting of the Lord's peace with those around us.*

**OPENING HYMN**      *“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”*      **LSB 345**  
*Please stand for the final stanza*

## **INVOCATION AND BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

**[P]** In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**[C]** Amen.

**[L]** Beloved in the Lord, as we mark this season of Advent, let this tree remind us how Jesus Christ, the author and give of all life, came to meet the power of death. As we raise this tree, we remember the tree of the cross where our Lord accomplished His victory that give us life as Job prophesied: “For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease.”

**[L]** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**[C]** **Who made heaven and earth.**

**[L]** Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the source of life for all the living and the giver of eternal life, bless us as we raise this tree in anticipation of the celebration of Your coming and in remembrance of the tree of the cross on which You won salvation for us. Renew our hearts and faith that we may honor Your coming and live in faithfulness to You until You come again, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**[C]** Amen.

**P** The Lord almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this tree for use in His Church throughout these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.

**C** Amen.

**HYMN** – “*O Tree So Green*” (Tune: Forest Green)

**O tree so green with lights so bright, what promise do you hide?**

**O gleaming ornaments of gold, what stories lie inside?**

**The world in fear awaits a king whose birth will bring us peace;**

**Whose life will bear the pain of death and offer us release.**

**The tree with branches green and strong reminds us of God’s love;**

**Which shelters us in all life’s storms with healing from above.**

**For such a gift a cost was born, on Calv’ry’s barren tree.**

**O Spirit, help me to confess that Jesus came for me.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**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.

**C** Amen.

## **INTROIT**

**L** In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

**C** make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**L** Seek the LORD and his strength;

**C** seek his presence continually!

**L** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

**C** his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**L** O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

**C** children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

**L** He is the LORD our God;

**C** his judgments are in all the earth.

**L** He remembers his covenant forever,

**C** the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

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.

## KYRIE



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

## HYMN

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1 & 4*

**LSB 357**

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated...*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**L** The Old Testament Reading for the Second Sunday in Advent is from Isaiah, chapter eleven.

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall

not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING

**Romans 15:4-13**

**L** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter fifteen.

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand...*

## ALLELUIA VERSE



**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

**Matthew 3:1-12**

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE NICENE CREED

**C** 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...***

*Children's Church and Nursery children may follow the acolyte out down the center aisle during the hymn. The children will be led back into the sanctuary by the acolyte during the offering.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”    **LSB 344**  
*Please stand for the final stanza*

***Please be seated...***

**SERMON**

***We ask the McElhoe Family to please come forward...***

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION** – *We are delighted to welcome Joe, Jessie, and Cooper McElhoe to our church family. They join us by transfer of membership from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Ash Grove.*

**✠ FIRST COMMUNION ✠**

***We ask our youth in confirmation class to please come forward.***

**P** Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism these young people were born again as God’s children and received into His Church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar and invites His children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. The apostle Paul reminds us, “Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup,” and “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” These candidates have received instruction and have been examined by the pastor regarding their sin and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar.

You are about to be admitted to the Lord’s Table. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” You are invited by our Lord to come regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. You will continue to be instructed and nurtured in the

Christian faith and life. You are invited to confess your sins and receive the comfort of Holy Absolution. All this will help you live as the child of God you have been made through Holy Baptism. In testimony of this faith and confession, I now ask you:

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is your Lord?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe that you are a sinner?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love toward others?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

**R** *Yes, with the help of God.*

**P** I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Parents and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? Then answer: We will, with the help of God.

**C** **We will, with the help of God.**

**P** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in the faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** We rejoice with thankful hearts in your confession of faith. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His holy Supper, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Peace ✠ be with you.

**C** **Amen.**



**Please stand...**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*We pray for the hospitalized:* none known.

*We pray for strength and healing for:* Makenna Eversole, Donna Streuer, Mike Heidle, John and Ruth Roderick, Bev Page, Jensen Shutes, Dawn Campbell, Linda Pasquale, Rosalie Finet, Kyla Culotti, Rosemary Burmeister, Leslie Van Camp Stone, Del Krueger, Margie Souza, Dan Rull, Darlene Collins, Paul Teegarden, Earl Lackey, Dan Burmeister, Richard Wahlfeldt, Heather Christensen, Martha Elliott, Angie Lucas, Charlotte Schendel, Walter Harbison, Harvey Heerssen, Ethan Darby, Justin Fleming, Kevin Mixter, Jim Souza, Gregg Sacotnik, Joyce Owens, Joan Fleming, Linda Grinestaff, Jason Toms, Gabby Reynolds, Rodger Burgin, Toby Ceader, Sarah Koester, Tom Reese, Dottie Kliner, Mary Seifrig, Bruce Garrison, Carol Schafer, Tamara Fisher, Marilina Hutchison, Sarah and Patty Calderon, Keri Blankenbeckler, Jason Dawson, Judy Berg, Mike & Linda Borgward, Eric Wittmann, Kathy Howey, Frank Hutnicke.

**Please be seated...**

## OFFERING

**Please stand...**

**OFFERTORY HYMN** – “Come, O Lord, We Wait in Hope”

(Tune: “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” LSB 374)

Come, O Lord, we wait in hope,  
Prayer, and expectation.  
Make our hearts to know the peace  
Of Your blest salvation.  
Come, O Lord, our Morning Star,  
Light of light forever.  
May our lives reflect the glow  
Of Your grace, O Savior.

Come, Lord Jesus, as the King  
Long anticipated,  
Witnessed in prophetic Word,  
Joyfully awaited.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and subdue  
Foes that would distress us.  
Be our true and lasting joy;  
By Your advent bless us.

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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



**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!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

**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

*"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"* LSB 641

*"Once He Came in Blessing"* LSB 333

*Please stand...*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

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  
glo - ry 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** 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. **G** Amen.

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

*“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*

**LSB 359**

## POSTLUDE



### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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# God's Blessings on your First Holy Communion

This Sunday is such a special day, and we are so thankful to celebrate it with you. As you come to the Lord's Table for your First Communion, may you feel the love, forgiveness, and strength that Jesus so freely gives. We pray that this milestone deepens your faith and fills your hearts with joy and peace. Congratulations Owen, Eli, and Lexie!





**ADVENT SUPPER: 5:00 PM**  
**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE: 6:30 PM**

**LIGHTS – DECEMBER 10**

Our decoration preparation includes the use of lights—from candles to twinkling LEDs. These luminous decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent, a season of preparation. Today we will consider how lights point us to the coming of Christ and the glory He brings.

**CRECHE – DECEMBER 17**

Our decoration preparation includes the use of the crèche—the miniature model of the nativity scene. The crèche is a distinctively Christian decoration in that it depicts the characters involved in the nativity of Christ: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angels, the stable animals, and—most important of all—the infant Jesus. As we view this manger scene, we recall the timeless story of God coming to earth as a baby to redeem us from our sins.

**GIFTS – DECEMBER 24**

Our decorations include wrapped presents—gifts in colorful boxes and bags that are placed under the Christmas tree. But these gifts all pale in comparison to the gift that started it all at Christmas—the gift of God’s Son, whose birth brings us regeneration, renewal, and eternal life. On Christmas Eve, we consider how the gifts under the tree point us to God’s indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.

*Every Heart Prepare devotionals for Advent are available in the narthex, next to the Portals of Prayer. These daily devotions connect our common Christmas decorations with our anticipation of Jesus’ birth. From December 1 to January 6, take time to ponder these profound readings featuring Scripture, a short message, and a prayer.*