

Joy

"The joy of the
LORD is your
strength."

Nehemiah 8:10, NIV



Immanuel Lutheran Church



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



Website: www.ilcdanville.com / Phone: 217.442-5675
Email: ilcd.churchsec@gmail.com or ilcd.pastor@gmail.com
Immanuel Lutheran School: 217.442-5036 or 217.442-5675

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.*

OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” **LSB 338**

Please stand...

INVOCATION AND BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

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

C Amen.

P Jesus Christ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man. This fulfilled the prophesy that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Let this creche remind us that the Lord Jesus can into our flesh and is truly our Savior.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C Who made heaven and earth.

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless this creche, which shows the wonders of that sacred birth, that all who behold it may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and joyfully partake of His divine grace unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 creche for use in His Church throughout these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.

C Amen.

HYMN – “O Manger Small” (Tune: Forest Green)

**O manger small, how could it be You cradled God’s own Son?
O stable bare, how could it be alone you gave Him room?
To Bethlehem the mother came and to this meager home;
And there delivered in the night in flesh, God’s only Son.**

**Some shepherds came and angels, too, to glimpse in still of night.
The gift of God gave, His only Son, the everlasting Light.
O creche so small and figures sweet, proclaim the holy birth,
Of Jesus, born to be the King, The God who comes to earth.**

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 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

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C again I will say, Rejoice.

P I will hope continually

C and will praise you yet more and more.

P My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

C for their number is past my knowledge.

P With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;

C I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

P O God, from my youth you have taught me,

C and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

P So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

C until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

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 & 7

LSB 357

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated...

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

L The Old Testament Reading for the Third Sunday in Advent is from Isaiah, chapter thirty-five.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not

go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

James 5:7-11

L The Epistle is from James, chapter five.

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR – “*Christmas Is Coming*”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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 11:2-15

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

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

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

C **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...

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349

SERMON

HYMN

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

LSB 334

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.*

Please stand...

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the hospitalized: Mike Heidle.

We pray for the family and friends of those who died: Earl Lackey.

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, 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 and Linda Borgward, Eric Wittmann, Kathy Howey, Frank Hutnicke.

Please be seated...

OFFERING / HANDBELLS – *“People Look East”*

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.

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.

MORNING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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

"Arise, O Christian People"

LSB 354

POSTLUDE



In Loving Memory

Today's bulletin is sponsored by

Nancy McCoy

*In loving memory of her husband,
Larry McCoy, Sr. and her son,
Larry McCoy, Jr. on the occasion
of their shared birthday,
December 13th.*

