



*Nativity of our Lord*

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Friday, December 24, 2021 6:00 and 11:00 pm*

*Welcome to worship! Please complete a Connection Card and place the card in the offering plate near the exit. Thank you!*

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

## GATHERING

### Prelude

**Call to Worship - 6 pm**                      *"O Holy Night"*                      **Senior Choir**

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God, we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. + In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

**Hymn**                      *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (st. 1-2)*                      **#283**

### Christmas Dialog (based on Psalm 96)

<sup>1</sup> Sing GOD a brand-new song! Earth and everyone in it, sing!

<sup>2</sup> **Sing to GOD! Worship GOD! Shout the news of his victory day after day,**

<sup>3</sup> Take the news of his glory to the lost, news of his wonders to one and all!

<sup>4</sup> **For GOD is great, and worthy of praise. GOD's awesome beauty makes the gods look cheap;**

<sup>5</sup> Pagan gods are mere tatters and rags. GOD made the heavens—

<sup>6</sup> **Royal splendor radiates from him, A powerful beauty sets him apart.**

<sup>7</sup> Bravo, GOD, Bravo! Everyone join in the great shout: **ENCORE!** In awe before GOD's beauty, in awe before GOD's might.

<sup>8</sup> **Bring gifts and celebrate, <sup>9</sup> Bow before the beauty of GOD, Then to your knees— everyone worship!**

<sup>10</sup> Get out the message—GOD Rules! He put the world on a firm foundation; He treats everyone fair and square.

<sup>11</sup> **Let's hear it from Sky, With Earth joining in, And a huge round of applause from Sea.**

<sup>12</sup> Let Wilderness turn cartwheels; animals, come dance; put every tree of the forest in the choir—

<sup>13</sup> **An extravaganza before GOD as he comes, as he comes to set everything right on earth, Set everything right, treat everyone fair.**

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### WORD

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Titus 2:11-14**

**Special Music - 6 pm**

**"Christmas Glory Hallelujah"**

**Senior Choir**

**Luke 2:1-20**

**Hymn**

***Away in a Manger***

**#277**

**Christmas Message**

**Pastor Steve Solberg**

**Hymn**

***Joy to the World***

**#267**

**Nicene Creed**

**p. 104**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

## Sharing of Christ's Peace

### MEAL

*We believe  
that the true  
body and  
blood of Je-  
sus Christ is  
in/with/  
under the  
bread and  
wine.*

*All baptized  
Christians  
who believe  
this true  
presence are  
welcome and  
encouraged  
to  
receive Holy  
Communion  
today.  
Parents,  
please assist  
your child  
(ren) if you  
wish them  
communed.*

### Offering

#### Offering Hymn

*What Child Is This (st. 1)*

#296

#### Offering Prayer

Gracious God, **your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### Thanksgiving at the Table

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Invitation to Communion

*In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.*

### Communion

#### Prayer after Communion

We thank you, wondrous God, **for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### Distribution of Candlelight

*Beginning with pastor, candlelight is shared across the congregation.*

#### Hymn of Light

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

#281

### SENDING

### Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

*The candles are extinguished.*

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior

**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

# VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN SERVICE

SERVING IN WORSHIP: *Pastor Steve Solberg*

ORGANIST/PIANIST/MUSICIAN: *Connie Scanlon*

Worship Services: Sun. @ 9:30 am / Mon. @ 6 pm

Office Hours: 8 am-2 pm, Monday-Thursday (or by appt.)

## ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE:

4:00 pm USHERS/GREETERS - *Marty Saari & Kyle Saari*

6:00 pm USHERS/GREETERS - *Ruth Perucco & Alice Mutkala*

11:00 pm USHERS/GREETERS - *Need Volunteers*

4:00 pm LECTOR - *Hayley Smith*

6:00 pm LECTOR - *Dan Collins*

11:00 am LECTOR - *Walter Scanlon*

4:00 pm COMM. ASST.'S - *Walter Scanlon*

6:00 pm COMM. ASST.'S - *Fae Collins*

11:00 pm COMM. ASST.'S - *Jean Manginen*

4:00 pm TECH TEAM - *Tyler Moore*

6:00 pm TECH TEAM - *Tyler Moore, Luanne Skrenes*

11:00 pm TECH TEAM - *Luanne Skrenes*

## MUSICIANS THAT VOLUNTEERED:

Instrumentalist: *Doug Lindblom* (trumpet), *Walter Scanlon* (trumpet),  
*Dan Lindblom* (trumpet & timpani), *Sarah Kempainen* (violin),  
*Karen Fitchett* (viola), *Ethan Halvorson* (cello).