



*Nativity of our
Lord*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Saturday, December 24, 2022 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

GATHERING

Prelude

Call to Worship (*for 6 pm*) *“Rock-a-My Savior”* **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

#283

Christmas Dialog (*based on Psalm 96*)

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

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

³ Take the news of his glory to the lost, news of his wonders to one and all!

⁴ **For GOD is great, and worthy of praise. GOD’s awesome beauty makes the gods look cheap;**

⁵ Pagan gods are mere tatters and rags. GOD made the heavens—

⁶ **Royal splendor radiates from him, A powerful beauty sets him apart.**

⁷ Bravo, GOD, Bravo! Everyone join in the great shout: **ENCORE!** In awe before GOD’s beauty, in awe before GOD’s might.

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

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

¹¹ **Let’s hear it from Sky, With Earth joining in, And a huge round of applause from Sea.**

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

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

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.

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 (*for 6 pm*)

"This Peaceful Night"

Senior Choir

Luke 2:1-20

Children's Message

Pastor Tom Skrenes

Hymn

Away in the Manger

#277

Nicene Creed

p. 104

Prayers of Intercession

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

MEAL

Offering

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.

Offering Prayer

God of abundance , **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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 Hymn (4:00 pm) This Peaceful Night **A Choir Group**

Communion Hymns	<i>I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve</i>	#271
	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	#289
	<i>Hark the Herald</i>	#270
	<i>Love Has Come</i>	#292

Prayer after Communion

God our redeemer, **you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Distribution of Candlelight

Beginning with pastor, candlelight is shared across the congregation.

SENDING

Hymn of Light ***Silent Night, Holy Night*** **#281**

Blessing

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

The candles are extinguished.

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn ***Joy to the World*** **#267**

Postlude

*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.*



VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN SERVICE

SERVING IN WORSHIP: *Pastor Tom Skrenes*

ORGANIST/PIANIST/MUSICIAN: *Connie Scanlon*

Christmas Worship Services: 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 25, Worship Service: 9:30 am

Monday, December 26, NO 6:00 pm Worship Service (Office Closed)

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 - ***NEED VOLUNTEERS***

4:00 pm LECTOR - *Walter Scanlon*

6:00 pm LECTOR - *Dan Collins*

4:00 pm COMM. ASST.'S - *Haley Smith*
Toby Smith

6:00 pm COMM. ASST.'S - *Luanne Skrenes*
Walter Scanlon

4:00 pm TECH TEAM - *Luanne Skrenes*

6:00 pm TECH TEAM - *Tyler Moore*

MUSICIANS WHO VOLUNTEERED:

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