



For as the earth
bringeth forth
her bud,
and as the garden
causeth the things
that are sown in
it to spring
forth;

so the Lord GOD
will cause
Righteousness and
praise to
spring forth
before all the
nations.

Isaiah 61:11

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The weeks before Christmas bring a time of joyful preparation to our homes, our communities, and our churches. As people who are waiting to welcome the Lord Jesus once again, we make a priority of making His way straight in our lives. The many competing voices and sounds of the season may seek to distract us, but we know what our priorities are to be. We are listening for a specific sound – the sound of the good news of the coming Savior!

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

63 – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.
- C** **Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity.**
- P** Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- C** **Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended You and sinned against Your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to Your promises in Christ Jesus.**
- P** God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by His death on the cross and freed us from death by His resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
- C** Amen.



✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Philippians 4:4-6; Psalm 85:1

- P** Rejoice in the Lord always.
- C** **Again I will say, rejoice!**
- P** Let your gentleness be known to all men.
- C** **The Lord is at hand.**
- P** Be anxious for nothing,
- C** **but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.**
- P** LORD, You have been favorable to Your land;
- C** **You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.**

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second staff continues the melody, and the third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second staff continues the melody and concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

1 Glory be to God in heav - en, Peace to those He
2 On-ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let all His peo - ple
sin a-way, Now with Him in tri-umph seat - ed
Speak His grace, His won - ders tell:
For Your mer - cy, Lord, we pray:
Lord, we praise You for Your glo - ry,
Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
Might - y Fa - ther, heav-en's King; Hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior You are God a - lone In the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion And ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

C Amen.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 126

- P** When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion,
C **We were like those who dream.**
P Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing.
C **Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**
P The LORD has done great things for us,
C **And we are glad.**
P Bring back our captivity, O LORD,
C **As the streams in the South.**
P Those who sow in tears
C **Shall reap in joy.**
P He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing,
C **Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.**

Gospel Reading

John 1:29-34

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." ³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said

to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

58 (1, 4-5, 9) – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Sermon Text

Isaiah 61

¹ “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” ⁴ And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations. ⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. ⁶ But you shall be named the priests of the LORD, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles,

And in their glory you shall boast. ⁷ Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs. ⁸ “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them an everlasting covenant. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed.” ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.



Sermon

Jesus is the Christ

- I. The One Anointed to Proclaim Good News
- II. The One Anointed to Restore Shattered Lives

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres - ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)

1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
 2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
 Thee all praise and glo - ry be. How
 life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. Oh,
 shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv - est all?
 may we ev - er with Thee live, Who giv - est all!

General Prayer

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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

74 – One He Came in Blessing

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule

December 17	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Board of Trustees/Church Council
December 20	7:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 24	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
December 25	10:15 am	Christmas Day Worship Service
December 31	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President: The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor Mark Kranz at the end of the 2023-24 academic year: Neil Bernthal, Jeff Karnitz, Joshua Ohlmann, Dan Roehl, Seth Schaller, Steve Sydow, Matthew Thurow, Paul Tiefel III, and Matthew Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2026. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 2, 2024 (letters postmarked December 23, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip: Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Find more information and apply online: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org

CLC Call News: Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI, has returned the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC has returned the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. <> Jennifer Wiese, teacher at Luther Memorial School in Fond du Lac, WI is resigning at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Fruits of Faith	December 10, 2023	Orlando: 12	WH: 46
	<u>Immanuel Home</u>		<u>\$175.25</u>
	Total		\$175.25

✠ **Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions** ✠

December 18 – December 23

Monday: Isaiah 40:1-2 – The Lord has double comfort, double forgiveness, for His people suffering exile in a foreign land. This shows both their great need and His great compassion.

Tuesday: Isaiah 40:3-5 – The Lord is going to come to take His exiled people back home. A voice in the wilderness urges all to get rid of anything that might hinder His coming and make a road for Him in the desert.

Wednesday: Isaiah 40:6-8 – The comfort which the Lord brings is not based on earthly situations, which change and fade like grass and flowers. No, His comfort is based on the eternal truths of God’s Word.

Thursday: Isaiah 40:9-10 – Here is comfort that is worth proclaiming: “Here is your God!” He is stronger than any trouble, even death and hell. That He is “your” God means salvation for you!

Friday: Romans 2:12-16 – When Jesus comes again to judge, the secrets of people’s hearts will be revealed. Then the righteousness which Christ has brought to us will be revealed as our greatest treasure.

Saturday: Matthew 3:1-12 – John calls on all to repent and receive God’s forgiveness in Christ. Matthew sees this as the greatest fulfillment of God’s promised comfort in Isaiah 40, the paving of the way of the Lord in the wilderness.



