



**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

1449 34<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

[www.WinterHavenLutheran.com](http://www.WinterHavenLutheran.com)

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

**Organist:** Teresa Bernthal

**Usher:** Rudy Enriquez

**Acolyte:** Seth Bernthal

## As We Gather

Who is it that we receive in the manger of our heart this day? Not just a cute and cuddly baby! No, that lowliness of form is designed to make it possible for us to receive Light brighter than the sun, the Creator of all that is, the Eternal God, the Child who makes us God's children. As the manger and the Virgin's arms held Him whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, so we too recognize and receive Him who has come in human flesh and blood to dwell in us through the Word and sacrament. It is in the Word and sacrament that we recognize Him and receive Him, the One who receives us.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

94 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#### Invocation

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

#### Dialogue of Praise

- P** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- C** **O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!**
- P** Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! To Him who alone does great wonders, who by wisdom made the heavens, who laid out the earth above the waters, who made great lights, The sun to rule by day, The moon and stars to rule by night.
- C** **Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.**
- P** But our iniquities have separated us from our God; And our sins have hidden His face from us, So that He will not hear. We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We look for salvation, but it is far from us.
- C** **For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them:**

- P** The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- C** **From the rising of the sun to its going down The LORD's name is to be praised.**
- P** "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
- C** **Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.**
- P** Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- C** **Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forevermore!**



*Thanks be unto God  
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV

# ✠ The Service of the Word ✠

## Hymn of Praise

LSB 368 – Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...  
... who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

## Hymn

76 – A Great and Mighty Wonder

## Epistle Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

## Alleluia

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



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are  
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the  
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

## Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

## Hymn

710 – Once in Royal David's City

## Sermon Text

John 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world

was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.



*Sermon*

## Faraway Brought Near

### Offertory

Cre-ate 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. Take not Your Ho - ly  
 Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -  
 va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

### Hymn

711 – See in Yonder Manger Low

## Offering

### Offering Hymn

442 (2)



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,  
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy  
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

## General Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

### 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

706 – Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Hymns and liturgical settings under copyright are reprinted with permission under One License #A-741527. All Rights Reserved. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Bulletin cover art is courtesy of Communication Resources Inc., © 1983-2023. Used by Permission. All Rights Reserved.*