



Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 31, 2023

Church: 812-522-3118

Dial-A-Meditation: 812-522-1345

info@immanuelseymour.com

www.immanuelseymour.com

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLC

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Ralph Blomenberg

Rev. Philip E. Bloch

Rev. James A. Rodriguez, Jr.

Rev. Will Fredstrom

Ministry Leaders:

Music: Mr. Paul Scheiderer

Youth: Mr. Matt Nieman

Childcare/Deaconess Intern:

Mrs. Katlynn Schnitker

School: 812-522-1301

www.immanuelschool.org

Principal: Dr. Todd Behmlander

Faculty: Mrs. Chris Behmlander

Mrs. Julia Bell

Mrs. Martha Bloch

Mrs. Melissa Brown

Mrs. Sarah Bumbleburg

Mrs. Emily Cremeans

Mrs. Heather Dyer

Mrs. Charlotte Elkins

Mrs. Sandy Franke

Mrs. Becky Goecker

Mrs. Mary Haugen

Mrs. Tamara Keilman

Mrs. Megan Keller

Mrs. Jennifer Pyle

Mrs. Sue Sims

Mr. B.J. Sinclair

Mr. Charles Smith

Mrs. Jordan Spieker

Mrs. Julie Tracey

Mrs. Kelley Whitson

Mrs. Alex Zaring



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

Welcome to Worship! In the Gospel, Simeon sees and recognizes the 40-day old Jesus as the Messiah. God promised Simeon he would not die until he saw the salvation of Israel. He did, and now he was ready to go. We, too, see Jesus as our Savior through eyes of faith. And, when the time comes for us to go, we are confidently ready. What a way to go!

Please register your attendance and Communion in the Record of Fellowship.

A “Wee Wiggle Room” is available below the entrance on Walnut St. and a Comfort Room is in the Atrium.

Bible Classes on the insert begin next Sunday!

Where do I put my offering? You can place gifts in the offering plate near each entrance or the boxes on the west wall of the narthex or in the chapel. Thank you!

Cell Phones: *Please remember to silence cell phones and electronics during worship.*

Holy Communion will be offered at the 9:00 & 7:00 services. If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church, please contact an elder or pastor before communing. Gluten free wafers are available in plastic sleeves. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one from the tray. Wine with alcohol removed is in the tray center.

+ DIVINE SERVICE IV, Page 203 +
--

THE PRELUDE: “Christmas Medley”

THE HYMN: “A Great and Mighty Wonder”

Hymn 383

1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:

The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure! Refrain

ref Proclaim the Savior’s birth: “To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth!”

2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,

And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. Refrain

3 While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,

Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain

4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,

The infant born in Bethl’em, The Savior and the Lord. Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish And Satan’s lying cease,

And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Public domain

THE INVOCATION, page 203

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

THE EXHORTATION:

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ 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.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS:

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION:

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.**

THE KYRIE, page 204 C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS:, page 204

C **To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;**

Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!

We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing—

Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;

O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,

Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—

For You alone are holy, You only are the Lord.

**Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY: (We pray together)

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE MONTH: (we speak together)

Now may the God of peace sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE READING: Galatians 4:4-7

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

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE, C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40 C: Glory to You, O Lord

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of

turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

+++ 9:00 & 7:00 NICENE CREED, page 206

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

+++ 11:15 APOSTLES' CREED, page 207

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.

THE HYMN: “Let All Together Praise Our God”

Hymn 389

- 1 Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.
- 2 He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.
- 3 Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.
- 4 He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.
- 5 He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love! No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.
- 6 He is the key and He the door To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.
- △7 Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1, 3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001725
Text (st. 2): Public domain

THE SERMON: “What a Way to Go!”

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

Hymn 390

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

- 2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Text: Public domain

+++ 9:00 & 7:00 HOLY COMMUNION, page 208

Preface

- P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
P It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

- C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ,... This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

- C **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray**

9:00 Anthem: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"; Distribution Hymns: 370, 388, 358

370 What Child Is This

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: Public domain

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

ref Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Refrain
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain
- 3 Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

Text: Public domain

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.

- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep. I, too, must sing
with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis

**C O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The
glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel. All glory to the Father, All glory to the
Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now,
shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

THE BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you... **C Amen**

THE CLOSING HYMN: "God Loves Me Dearly"

Hymn 392

- 1 God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me. Refrain

ref Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

2 I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working To make me free. Refrain

3 He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. Refrain

4 Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. Refrain

5 Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You All my life long. Refrain

Text: Public domain

THE POSTLUDE: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" Wilbur Held

Preacher: Pastor Rodriguez **Lector:** Pastor Bloch

Liturgists: Pastor Fredstrom & Pastor Blumenberg

Organist: Mr. Paul Scheiderer **Soloist:** Gabrian Wilkins

Instrumentalists: The Keller Family

+++

Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.