



Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 31, 2023

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Rev. Philip E. Bloch

Rev. James A. Rodriguez, Jr.

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Youth: Mr. Matt Nieman

Childcare/Deaconess Intern:

Mrs. Katlynn Schnitker

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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



Welcome to Worship! As a new year begins, we are often quick to set goals and figure out how we might improve ourselves and our health. These are not necessarily bad things! But what if in 2024, we focused less on our goals and our improvement and instead focused on the betterment of the neighbor? What would it look like to count others as more significant than ourselves? What would it look like to spend less time trying to justify ourselves and more time living out our justified life for the sake of the neighbor and the square mile God has placed us in to live, love, and serve?

+ VESPERS, Page 229 +

THE PRELUDE: "Across the Sky the Shades of Night" – G.P. Telemann

THE OPENING HYMN: "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

Hymn 900

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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THE OPENING RESPONSES: Page 229

- L O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia

THE PSALM: (We speak responsively from Psalm 90:1-14)

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

L: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

C: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

L: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

C: In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

L: For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

C: You have set our iniquities before you; our secret sins in the light of your presence.

L: For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

L: Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

L: Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!

C: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 30:15-17

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more

than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:35–40

[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMON RESPONSORY: Page 230

L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

L Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

THE OPENING HYMN: “Across the Sky the Shade of Night”

Hymn 899

1 Across the sky the shades of night This New Year’s Eve are fleeting.
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting;
And as the year’s last hours go by, We raise to You our earnest cry,
Once more Your love entreating.

2 Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer addressing,
Recounting all Your mercies now, And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching You this coming year To keep us in Your faith and fear
And crown us with Your blessing.

- 3 We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of Your mercies:
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r Our grateful song rehearses;
For You have been our strength and stay In many_a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.
- 4 We now remember, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your caring
Who brightly shine in endless day, Past death and all despairing.
At our life's end, Lord, as Your own, Bring us with them around Your throne,
The joys of heaven sharing.
- 5 Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us,
And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
When heav'n itself shall hide us.

THE SERMON: "Living Well in a New Year"

THE MAGNIFICAT: "The Day Thou Gavest"

Hymn 886

- 1 The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended, The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended, Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
- 2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, unsleeping While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping, And never rests by day or night.
- 3 As o'er each continent and island The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent, Nor dies the strain of praise away.
- 4 The sun, that bids us rest, is waking Thy saints beneath the western skies,
And hour by hour, as day is breaking, Fresh hymns of thankful praise arise.
- 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never, Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands and grows forever, Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

THE KYRIE, Page 233

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE COLLECTS

THE BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION, Page 234

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING 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.

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THE POSTLUDE: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" -Healey Willan

Preacher: Pastor Fredstrom **Lector:** Pastor Rodriguez

Liturgists: Pastor Blomenberg & Pastor Bloch

Organist: Mr. Paul Scheiderer

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. We seek to fulfill Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing ... and teaching." Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.

A blessed New Year to you!