

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

*December 7, 2025
The Second Sunday in Advent*



*The dessert & the
parched land will be
glad; the wilderness
will rejoice & blossom
Like the crocus, it will
burst into bloom*

Isaiah 35:1-2

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Opening Hymn #309

“The Advent of Our King”



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain



and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
him - self a ser - vant's form puts on to set his ser - vants free.
nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and his true mem - bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin's dark deeds be gone,
the old self all be put away,
the new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

*Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text and tune: Public domain*

Please stand.

Invocation & Confession

M: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

C: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

M: Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

M: If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

C: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.

Hymn #310 st.1

“Arise, O Christian People”

1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who
takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -
lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised
Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

M: God’s promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God’s law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

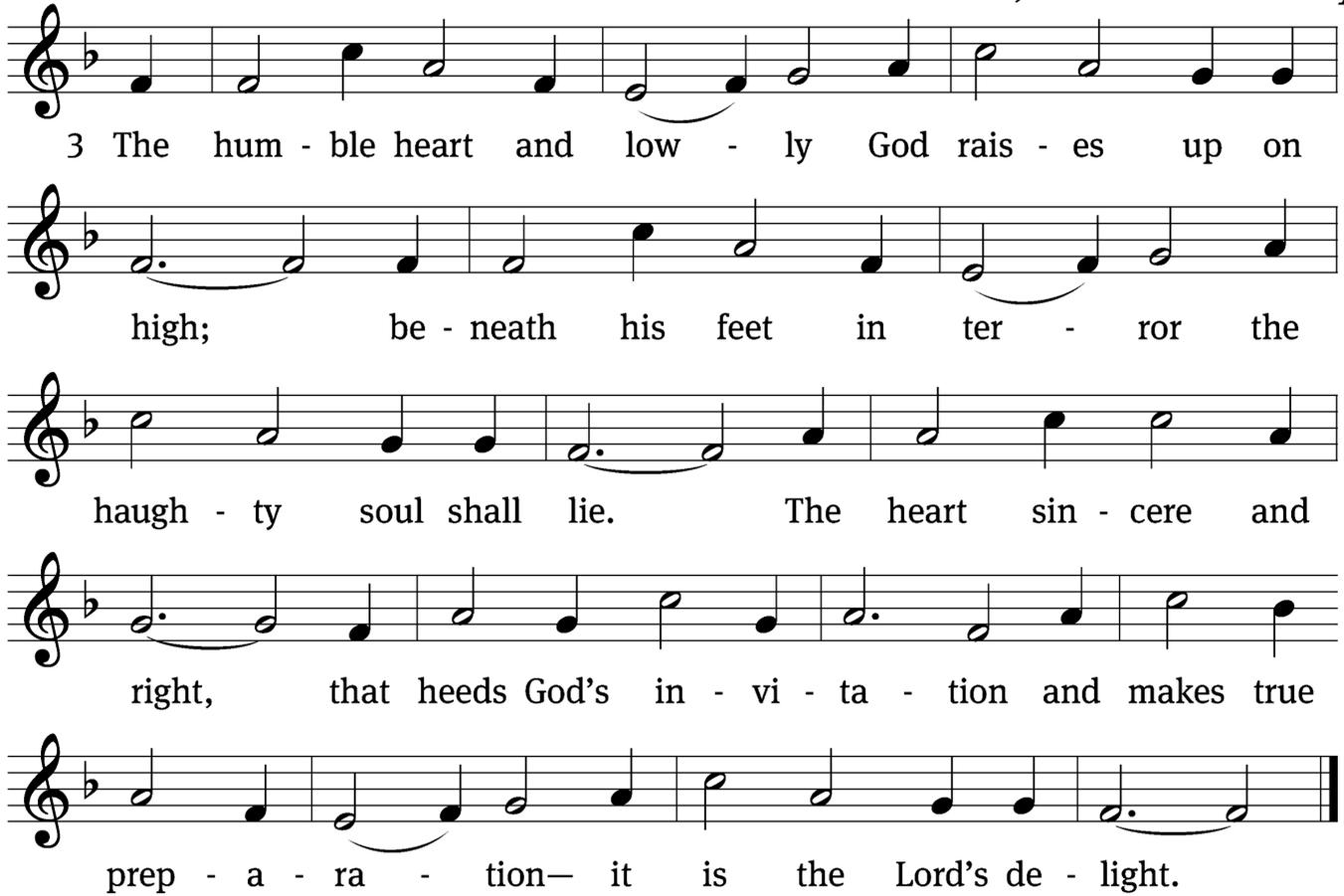
C: **Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.** *2 Corinthians 8:9*

M: Even as we await Christ’s second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #310 st.3

“Arise, O Christian People”



3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers.**
John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Hymn #310 st.4

“Arise, O Christian People”



4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



side, and help me to re - ceive you this



bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146A (*early service*)

*sing from hymnal or display

“I Will Praise the Lord All My Life”

Second Reading

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

St. Matthew 11:10



Refrain



C: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

M: I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.

C: **Refrain**

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Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 11:2–11

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (NIV)

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn #307

“When the King Shall Come Again”



1 When the King shall come a - gain, all his pow'r re - veal - ing,
2 In the des - ert trees take root, fresh from his cre - a - tion;
3 Strength - en fee - ble hands and knees, faint - ing hearts be cheer - ful!
4 There God's high - way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,



splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing,
plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion.
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fear - ful.
noth - ing e - vil or un - clean walks the road to Zi - on.



earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - trat - ed.
Riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing.
Deaf ears, hear the si - lent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing;
Ran - somed peo - ple, home - ward bound, all your prais - es voic - ing,



This is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
Val - leys, this is your new birth; moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!
blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.
see your Lord with glo - ry crowned; share in his re - joic - ing!

Text: Christopher M. Idle, b. 1938 Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

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Tune: Public domain*

Please stand.

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Prayer of the Church

**M: O God, you are the Holy One of Israel. You can make the desert blossom. Drive out
our fear with your promise of power. Strengthen our feeble hands.**

C: Steady our weak knees.

**M: With the hearing of your Word and the work of your Spirit you give us faith. Give us
hope as we wait for our Lord’s second coming, patience as we deal with hardship and
compassion as we deal with those who suffer. Strengthen our feeble hands.**

C: Steady our weak knees.

M: Open the eyes of the spiritually blind with your message about Christ. Lead us all in the way of repentance and make straight your way to us. Strengthen our feeble hands.

C: **Steady our weak knees.**

M: Guide those you have established as authorities over us. Give them wisdom, mercy and eagerness to serve the people in their care. Strengthen our feeble hands.

C: **Steady our weak knees.**

M: All healing of body and soul comes from you. We pray for all who are sick or suffering or enduring losses, [especially...]. Heal their diseases, relieve their pain, restore their strength if it is your will. Strengthen our feeble hands.

C: **Steady our weak knees.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

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Friendship Register is available by the entrances. If you are watching on-line please go to the description link and sign in.

Freewill Offering The offering plate is located by the back entrance. You may also give electronically via our website: immanuelfindlay.org or the App: GivePlus.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Visitors:** Please see our communion statement on page 20 before joining us at the Lord's table.



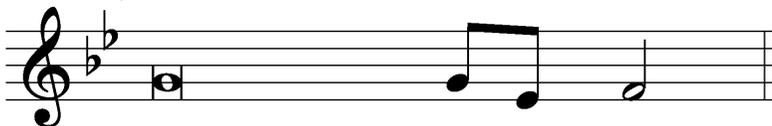
Please stand.

M: The Lord be with you.



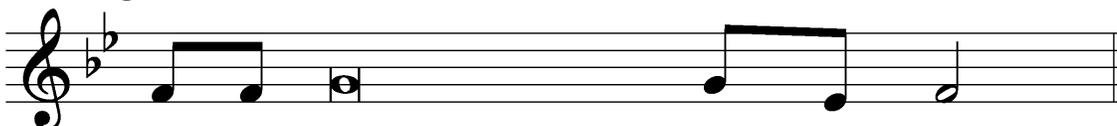
C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

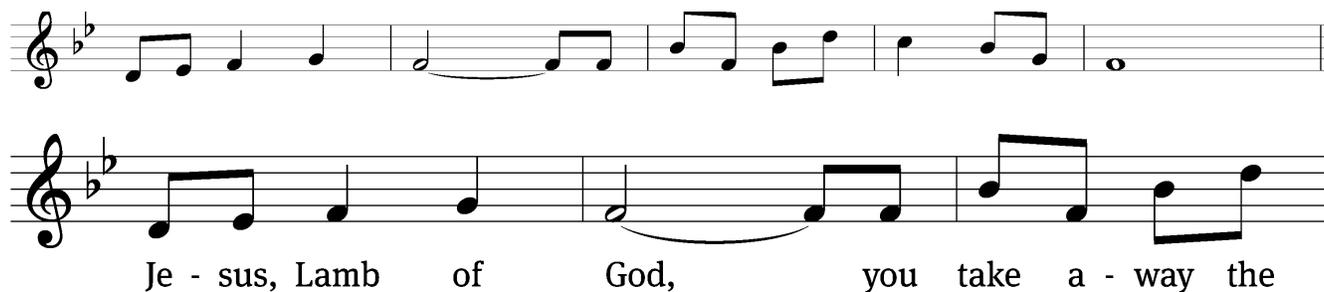
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen
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Be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns are in the blue hymnals and on the display.

Distribution Hymn #315

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

Distribution Hymn #324

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

M: The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #311

“Dawning Light of Our Salvation”



1 Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; long in mor - tal
2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's
3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and



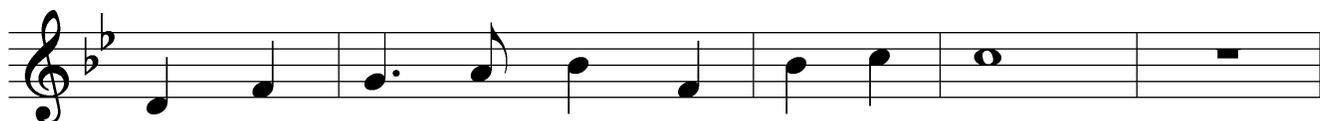
shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in
lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our
yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your



paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us,
sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,
sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;



long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would
life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and
know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him



save us from the hands of all our foes.
glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!

Refrain printed next page.

Refrain

Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain
 be made plain! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;
 all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

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Christmas poinsettias Please sign up if you would like to help beautify the altar area for Christmas by purchasing poinsettias to take home after the Christmas Eve service. We are asking for an \$11 donation to purchase poinsettia flowers and all donations will go to our youth group fund for future trips. Flowers will be purchased through Thrivent. Sign up in back for flowers.

Home care A member could use help watching his wife while he recovers from surgery. If you could help them, please speak to Pastor Krueger.

Usher/Greeter Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the entry. If you already are an usher or greeter, we will just include you on next years list unless you tell us to remove you.

Holiday Feast The church is having our Holiday Feast today, after the late service.

Japanese Christmas is today at 4:00 PM. If you signed up to bring a dessert, please drop it off in the kitchen and mark it clearly so it is available for this afternoon.

BIBLE STUDY	<i>Sunday</i>	Adult Bible Study	Today's Readings	9:20 AM
	<i>Wednesday</i>	Adult Bible Study	James	10:00 AM
	<i>Thursday</i>	Zoom Bible Study	The Incarnation	7:00 PM

Greeters East Doors North Doors

12/7

8:00 Howard & Nancy W. Volunteer
10:30 *Marjorie H.* *Jim & Jamie T.*

12/14

8:00 Bob H. Volunteer
10:30 *Denny & Sharon P.* *Laura & Mike B.*

12/21 – Only ONE service at 10:00 AM

10:00 Jan S. Pam W.

12/28

8:00 Volunteer Volunteer
10:30 Deana H. Diane L.

December Ushers: **8:00** *Dob L., Mike W.* **10:30** *Mike S., Kris A.*

Calendar

Sunday	Worship & Holy Communion, 8 & 10:30 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School, 9:20 AM Holiday Feast, noon Japanese Christmas Service, 4:00 PM Confirmation, 6:30 PM
Wednesday	Adult Bible Study, 10:00 AM Adult Choir Practice, 7:00 PM (in education wing) Preschool Christmas Program, 7:00 PM
Thursday	Zoom Bible Class, 7:00 PM
Saturday	Sunday School Practice, 10:00 AM
Sunday	Worship & Holy Communion, 8 & 10:30 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School, 9:20 AM Confirmation, 6:30 PM

When receiving communion, it's very helpful when you extend your hand to receive the wafer of bread. If there is anyone who would prefer to receive the wine mixed with water, please contact the pastor. We also have low-gluten wafers available; please speak with the pastor or an elder.

Celebrating Communion in Love—In love, Jesus gives his body and blood in Holy Communion. In love, Jesus tells us we are prepared for his meal when 1) we recognize our sins and need for forgiveness; 2) we confess Jesus as the only true God and Savior, without whom we would be lost for eternity; 3) we have been instructed in the Biblical truths of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; 4) we believe that in the Supper Jesus gives us his real body and blood in the bread and wine; 5) we publicly confess our oneness of faith and full agreement of belief with those whom we receive the Supper. In love, Jesus cautions us that if we are not properly prepared, then we are rejecting his love and would receive his Supper to our harm. Therefore, in love for all, we at Immanuel follow the ancient, Biblical practice of Close Communion, offering the Supper only to those who have professed their agreement with our Wisconsin Synod fellowship. If you are interested in receiving the Supper with us, we invite you to speak with our pastor about the important necessary pre-Communion instruction.

Distribution Hymn #315

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

- 5 Crush for me the serpent's head
that, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
safely kept through life and death,
- 6 And, when you shall come again
as a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
freely ransomed by your grace.

*Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4):
tr. Christian Worship, 2021*

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

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Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn #324

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

*Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. composite
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt. Text and tune: Public domain*