

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 4, 2026

The Epiphany of Our Lord



P S A L M 7 2 : 1 1

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Immanuel Lutheran Church & Preschool (WELS)
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Service Accompanist: Connie Krueger

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Office hours: 9 AM – 1 PM
Minister: Rev. Robert J. Krueger
Today's Guest Minister: Rev. Jeffrey Duquaine

Opening Hymn #372 sts.1-4

“As with Gladness Men of Old”



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Invocation & Dialogue

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

C: **Amen.**

M: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

C: **God saw that the light was good,
and he separated the light from the darkness.**

M: When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

C: **See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.**

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: **Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

M: When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

C: **The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?**

M: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

C: **The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

M: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

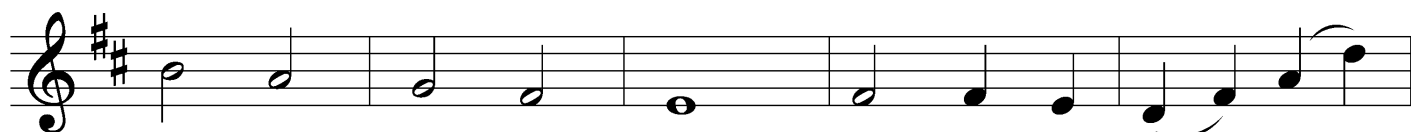
C: **We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**

Hymn #380 sts.1,4-5

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris-'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring wor - ship and



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king-dom stretch from
leap, un - loosed their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - or to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, 1710–1793 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

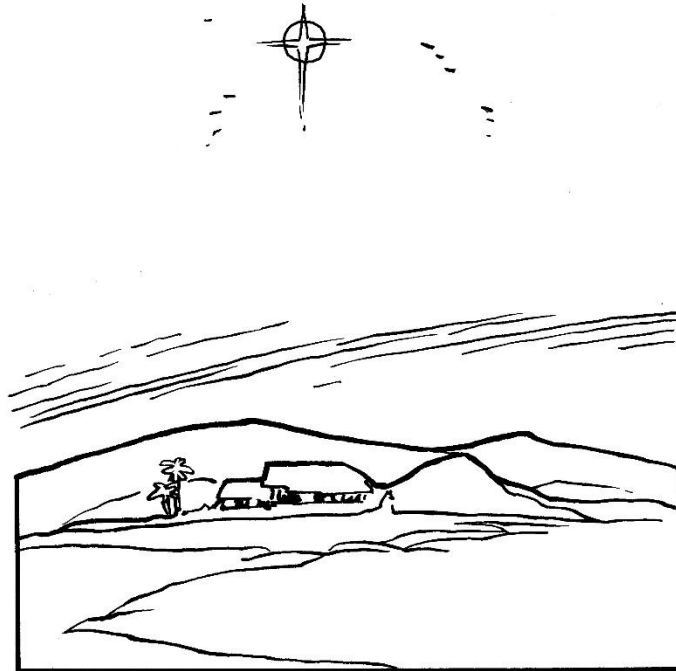
⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.

And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 72B sts.1-2,4

"A King on High Is Reigning"



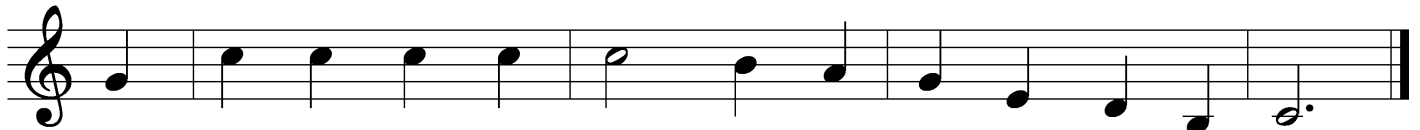
1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,
2 As rains that gent - ly nour - ish and bring the seed to birth,
4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right-eous - ness.
his right-eous-ness shall flour - ish, his peace pos - sess the earth;
the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,
her scep-tered kings ac - claim him, be - fore his feet they fall,
With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.
the na - tions kneel to name him the sov'-reign Lord of all.
in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith Tune: Henry T. Smart

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Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (NIV)

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn #370 sts.1,3-5*“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”*

1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere
4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



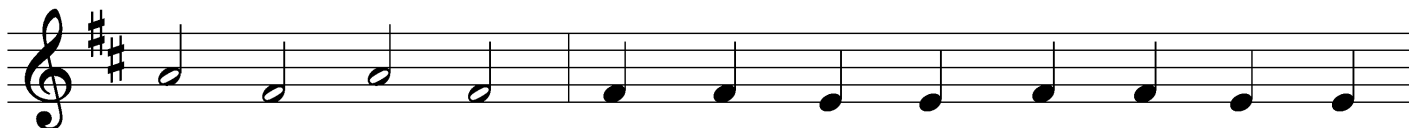
and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
ning with - out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



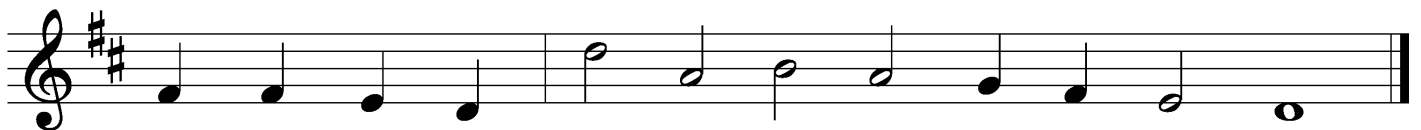
O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -
And you at length— O glo - rious grace— will take me to
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing
A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Sermon Text

Isaiah 60:1-6

Sermon Theme

“Your Light Has Come”

Please stand.

Confession of Faith: Apostles’ Creed

C: 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.

Be seated.

Prayer of the Church

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary’s Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness,
and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world
with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. [We pray especially for...] Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love
in everything we say and do.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

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.

Hymn

“We Three Kings” KINGS OF ORIENT

Verses

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a

1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,

Refrain

1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.

star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward

lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11.

Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

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Prayer

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

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 #376

"Rise Up and Shine"



1 Rise up and shine! Your light has come; God's
2 Fling wide your gates, both day and night; no
3 No more will you im - plore the sun to



glo - ry breaks like dawn. For though the earth be
more keep watch or guard. You will be called God's
shed by day its light, nor will you need the



cloaked in night and gloom shrouds ev - 'ry - one,
ho - ly hill, the cit - y of the Lord.
change - ful moon to glis - ten through the night.

Hymn continues on next page.

yet o - ver you the Lord will rise, with
No sound of strife will plague your land, nor
Your glo - ry then will be your God, whose

glo - ry gleam - ing clear, till na - tions turn to
harm be - siege your ways; "Sal - va - tion" will you
light will nev - er cease. Rise up and shine! Your

seek your light and hum - bled kings draw near.
name your walls, and all your por - tals "Praise."
light has come to give you joy and peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944 Tune: English; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.
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Mission Speaker: We thank Pastor Jeff Duquaine from King of Kings mission congregation in Willoughby for leading our services today. Pastor Krueger is in Jenera, and Vicar Johannes is preaching in Willoughby.

New Vicar: Our Council and Voters plan to apply for a vicar for the 2026-27 school year. We have about \$11,000 in our fund, but need another \$21,000. If you would like to help, mark your contribution for our Vicar Fund.

Thank you for extending your greetings and support this Christmas season, and for the congregational gift. It is a joy to serve you! I especially appreciate your patience as I serve the vacancy at Jenera; please know that I am available to serve you day or night. God bless us in this new year! --Pastor

Thank you to members for the gift you gave me this Christmas. I enjoy serving the Lord by accompanying our worship. Your support is a big help. --Connie Krueger

Annual Euchre Tournament will be held here at Immanuel on Saturday, Jan.31 at 6:00 PM. Please sign up to attend and indicate if you will bring a snack and if you have a card table you can let us borrow that night. Thank you!

Kroger will give money back to our church and preschool on any purchases you make. Go to [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com), sign into your Kroger card account (or set one up); in the search bar type Community Rewards; then either search for Immanuel Lutheran or type LW765. Click enroll and it's done. This does not affect the points you receive for shopping.

Christmas poinsettias If you purchased a poinsettia, you may take it home.

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.

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

January			
Greeters		<u>East Doors</u>	<u>North Doors</u>
1-4	8:00	Volunteer	Volunteer
	10:30	Becky F.	Volunteer
1-11	8:00	Karl & Lynn F.	Volunteer
	10:30	Helen R.	Brad & Sarah S.
1-18	8:00	Volunteer	Volunteer
	10:30	Pam W.	Kay M.
1-25	8:00	Volunteer	Bob H.
	10:30	Diane L.	Laura & Mike B.

January Ushers
8:00 Bob H., Howard W. 10:30 Matt M., Paul W.

Calendar	Sunday	Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School, 9:20 AM Confirmation, 6:30 PM
	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study, 10:00 AM Choir Practice, 7:00 PM
	Thursday	Zoom Bible Class, 7:00 PM
	Sunday	Worship & Holy Communion, 8 & 10:30 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School, 9:20 AM Confirmation, 6:30 PM

Welcome! We join together here to thank God for a new week of promise and possibilities. Let us greet one another joyfully and lovingly! If you are searching for a church home, feel free to talk to the pastor after the service.

Large print bulletins are available at the back of the fellowship hall.

There are visitor welcome packets available in the narthex.

There are children's books, coloring pages, pencils, and crayons available at the back of the fellowship hall. Please return the books, clipboards, pencils and crayons.

Silence is golden. Please silence cell phones before worship.

Bulletin Board: If you would like items displayed, please contact the office.