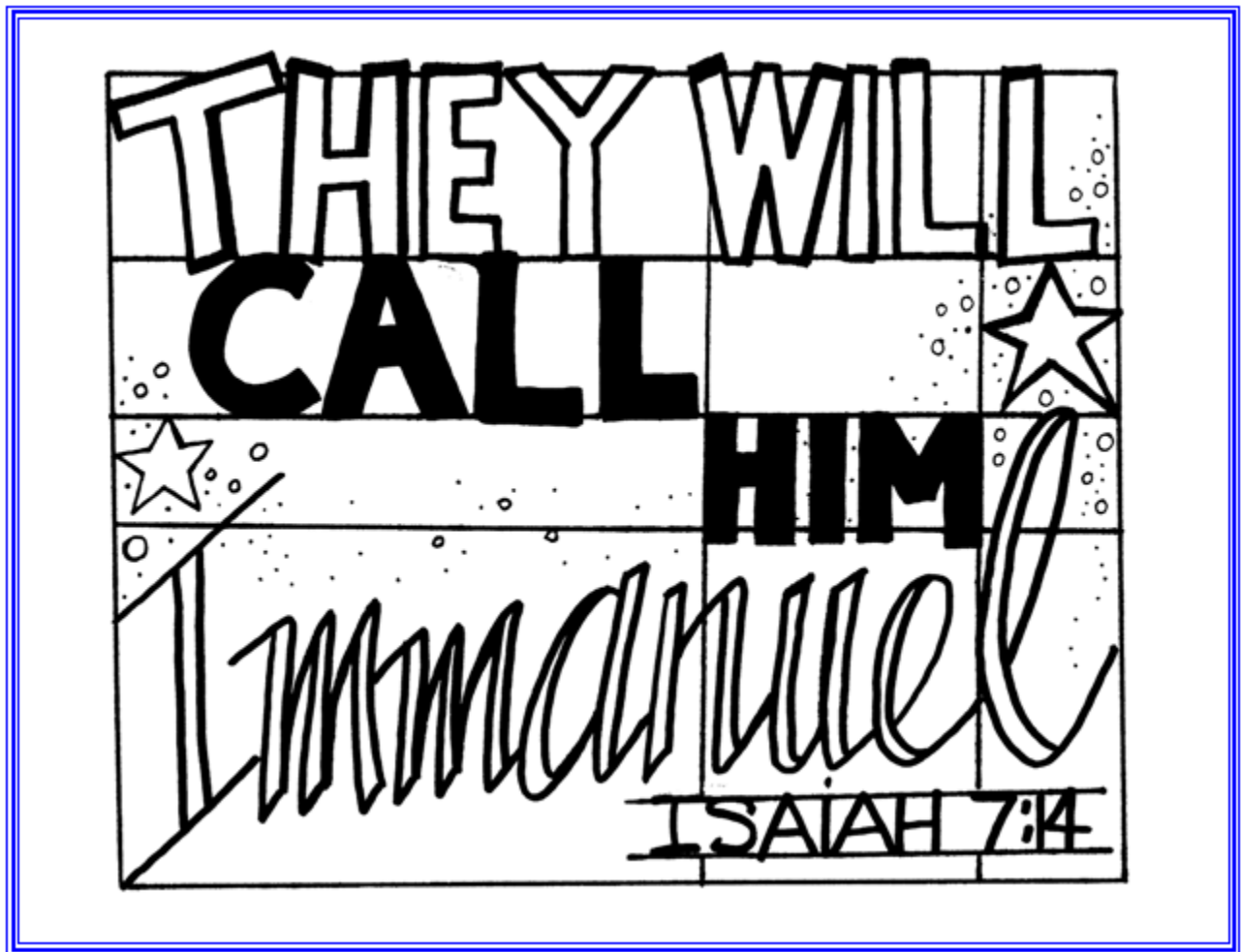


Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

*December 14, 2025
The Third Sunday in Advent*



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Opening Hymn #327

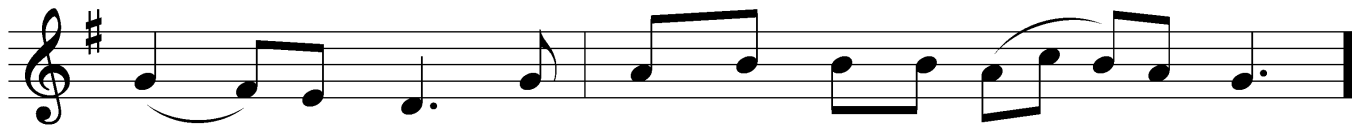
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



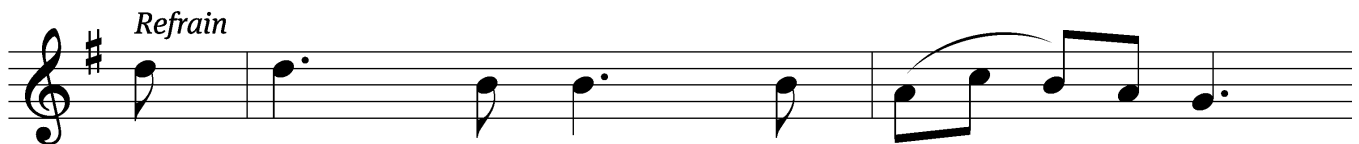
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



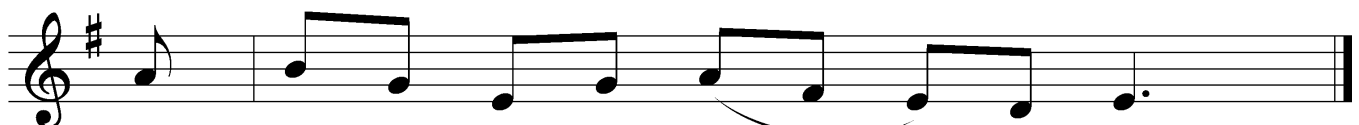
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710;
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent., alt. 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 three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior.
He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #305 sts.1-2 (*early service*) “*Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates*”
**sing from hymnal or display*

Choir Anthem (*late service*)

“In Silence We Wait”

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised in advance through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. ³ This gospel is about his Son—who in the flesh was born a descendant of David, ⁴ who in the spirit of holiness was declared to be God’s powerful Son by his resurrection from the dead—Jesus Christ, our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and the call to be an apostle on behalf of his name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, ⁶ including you, who were called by Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (EHV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (NIV)

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

Hymn #330

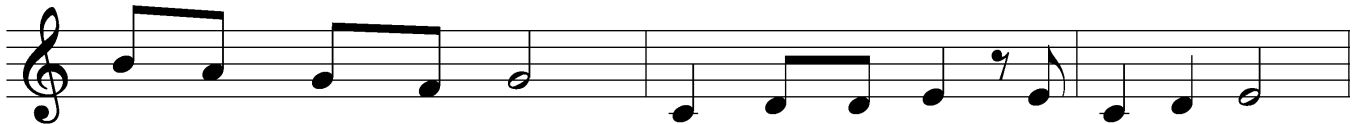
“Peace Came to Earth”



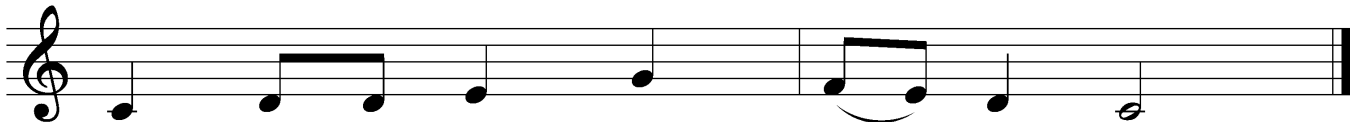
1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held the in - fant
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952; arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.

Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702769

Tune: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702769

Sermon Text

Romans 1:1-7

Sermon Theme

“Immanuel Calls”

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: O Lord Jesus, Lord almighty, you are strong and mighty in battle. We lift up our heads and open our hearts to you, our King of glory. You are our glory and strength.

C: You are the Holy One of Israel.

M: Jesus, you are Immanuel, God with us. Drive away our doubts and fears with your gospel that tells us you became flesh, dwelled among us, and that you know our needs and our weakness. You are our glory and strength.

C: You are the Holy One of Israel.

M: Your gospel was promised beforehand through the prophets in the Holy Scripture. Let this same Word call the nations near and far to your obedience that comes from faith, that people everywhere might believe in you, the Word made flesh. You are our glory and strength.

C: You are the Holy One of Israel.

M: Just as Gabriel was sent to announce your coming birth to Joseph, you also send your messengers to us with your Word. Bless all pastors and teachers, and those who are preparing for the public ministry in your church. Keep your Word in their hearts and on their lips. You are our glory and strength.

C: You are the Holy One of Israel.

M: When we are afraid, lead us to trust that nothing is impossible with you. We pray for all who deal with hardships, illnesses and losses [especially...]. Show them your favor. Uphold them in all their troubles, supply what they need for wholeness or healing, and strengthen their faith in your goodness with your Word of peace. You are our glory and strength.

C: You are the Holy One of Israel.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: O Lord, stir up your power and come. Mercifully fulfill all you have promised your Church to the end of the world; you live and reign, now and forever.

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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Visitors:** Please see our communion statement on page 16 before joining us at the Lord's table.



Please stand.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also 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.

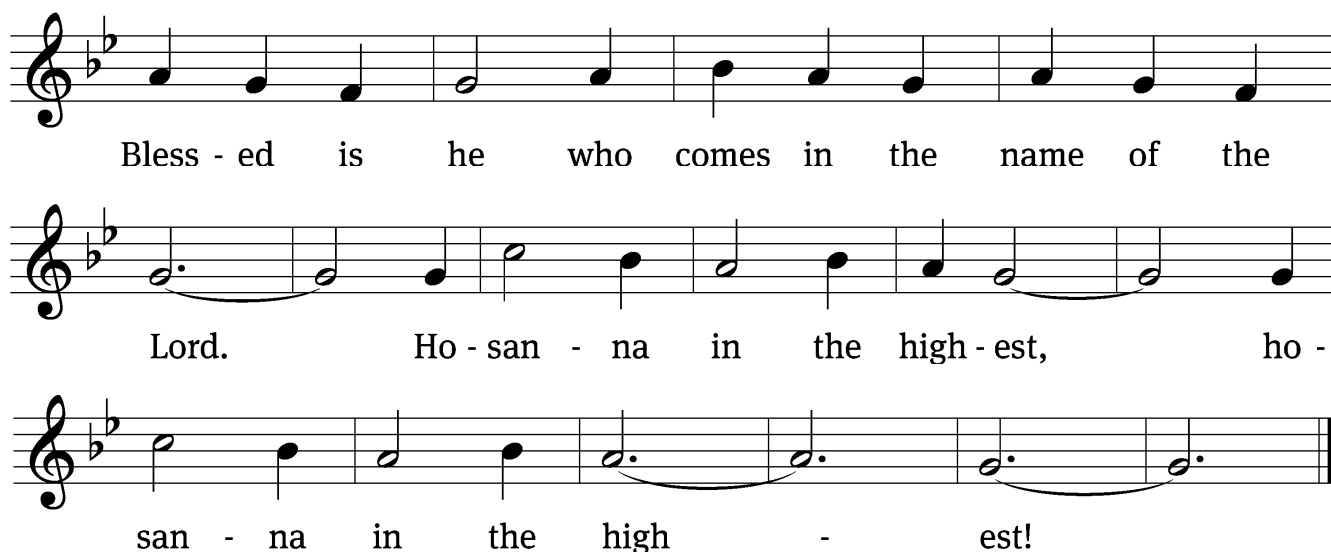
C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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





Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702769

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 Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702769

Be seated.

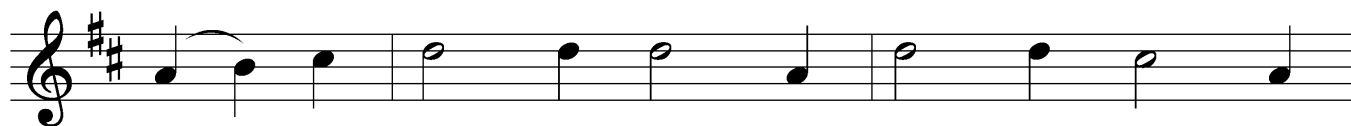
Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn #320

“As Angels Joyed with One Accord”



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the
2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that
3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned
4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we



ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly
suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he
not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in
hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel



praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.
walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.
grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.
does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

5 He comes in water to the child
and cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
and shows the Father's kindly face.

6 He comes to us in bread and wine
to give himself and gifts divine.
O praise him for this sacrament,
redeeming love's great testament!

7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
there joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt.

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text: © 1993 Werner H. Franzmann, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.

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Distribution Hymn #333

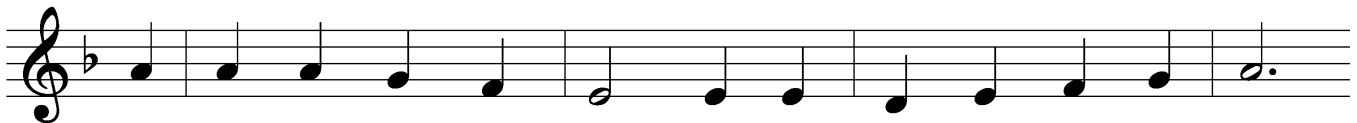
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
Text and tune: Public domain

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 #360

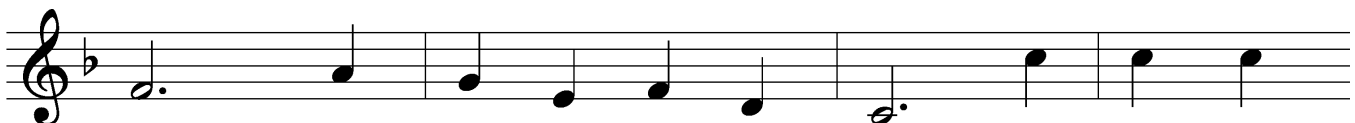
“Behold, A Branch Is Growing”



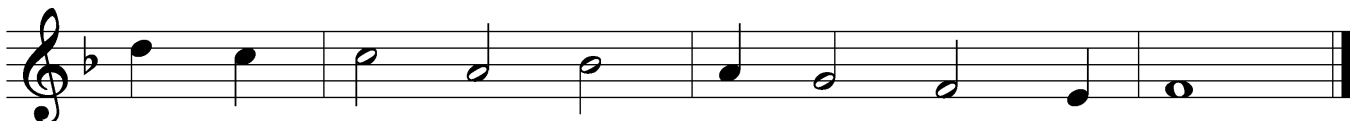
1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph-ets sang, fore-know-ing, it springs from Jes - se's
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

*Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599 Text and tune: Public domain*

Please stay for the WELS Connection Video.

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Today's altar flowers are in memory of the Brumley and Owen family and given by Thomas and Deborah Brumley.

Thank you to all who helped with the Holiday Feast!

Thank you to all who helped with Christmas for Kids! We had 22 kids who came to hear about our Saviors birth.

Thank you so much to all who provided food, music, decorations, etc. for our Japanese Christmas service. All together we had 18 Japanese friends join us and they all kept telling me how good everything was and how much they appreciated it. There may be a language barrier there, but everyone understands the kindness of a good meal and fellowship and that is what you provided for them. Thank you so much! -Bethany Green



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.

Young Adults... You are all invited to enjoy some fellowship on Friday, the 19th, at Immanuel. Food will be completely provided. We will begin serving food at approximately 5:30 p.m.. Hope to see you there!

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	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
12/14		
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.
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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 Confirmation, 6:30 PM
	Monday	Church Council, 6:30 PM
	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study, 10:00 AM Adult Choir Practice, 7:00 PM
	Thursday	Education Board, 11:30 AM Zoom Bible Class, 7:00 PM
	Saturday	Sunday School Practice, 10:00 - 11:00 AM <i>Pizza Party after</i> Young Adults Group, 5:30 PM
	Sunday, December 21	Children's Christmas Service @ 10:00 AM -Only one service! <i>No Sunday School on December 21</i>
	Wednesday, December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service, 7:00 PM
	Thursday, December 25	CHRISTMAS DAY Christmas Service, 10:00 AM

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.