

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023—10:15am

We celebrate the Lord's Supper today! Please prepare yourselves using these questions as a guide:

- Have I been baptized in the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit?
- Do I believe that I am a sinful being without hope for eternal life except in mercy of Jesus Christ?
- Do I believe in Jesus as My Savior?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally present in communion with His body and blood to forgive my sins, as the Bible teaches?
- Do I desire and strive by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a God-pleasing life?

As you come to the Lord's Supper you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, and that the Lutheran Church's confession of Jesus Christ and His Supper is your confession as well.

Prelude

AS WE GATHER: The first Advent candle is lit for this week's services. Today's candle is often called the prophecy candle. God knows all things, even the future, and prophecy helps us to know the promises that God gives when He speaks about the future and life itself.

Welcome: Pastor Dave

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: "Prophecy Candle"

As the Season of Advent starts we look to the promise given by the prophets who long ago foretold of the coming King.

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. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Hymn: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Chorus

Come, now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day, ev'ry tongue will confess You are God

One day, ev'ry knee will bow.

Still, the greatest treasure remains

for those who gladly choose You now.

Chorus

Words and Music by Brian Doerksen

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How Great Is Our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Refrain

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Refrain

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The Invocation *(Please rise)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down.

People: **O God, we wait for You to enter into our lives.**

Pastor: As a fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,

People: **We ask that You would set us on fire with a burning passion for You.**

Pastor: Come down and make Your name known.

People: **Help us to truly know You, O Lord, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Jesus invites us to begin anew. He invites—and He leads us—to approach Him without fear but with sincere repentance when He says, “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” *Matthew 11:28-29*
(Silent reflection)

Pastor: The time of waiting may continue; but the night is past and we live as children of the day. Our great promised Redeemer, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, came down from heaven to be our Savior. He took on our sin that we might be forgiven through faith in Him. As Jesus has promised your sins are forgiven by the grace of our Lord and his wondrous cross. You are free to start another day, another year, anew as a forgiven child of God. Look to the future with excitement awaiting God's richest blessings as a child looks forward to Christmas.

Children's Song: God Is So Good

God is so good. God is so good.
God is so good. He's so good to me.

He loves me so....

He gives me life....

Children's Message: Pastor Dave

The Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9 (*God promises for the future*)

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (*Opening of the letter*)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel is written in the 13th chapter of St. Mark beginning at the 24th verse
(The day and hour of Christ's return is unknown)

People: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.

³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostles Creed

All: 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 life everlasting. Amen

Hymn: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fulness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

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Sermon – “Watch” *Mark 13:24-37* *Pastor Dave*

Offerings and Pledges are gathered

Prayer of the Church

The Prayers

Peace & comfort for the family of Rich Richards, husband of Nancy Richards

Successful hip replacement surgery & healing for Christine Garrett

Healing from a fall for Barbara Abel

(Please help us keep our attendance numbers accurate by filling out the attendance cards and giving to Ushers at communion.)

The Lord’s Prayer *(Please rise)*

All: **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 Lord’s Supper is Celebrated

Pastor: The Consecration of the Bread and Wine

Sharing the Peace – Greet One Another with the Peace of the Lord

Distribution Hymn: Lord, Fill My Life

Lord, fill my life with You alone.

Empty myself of all that’s my own.

Lord, fill my life with You alone.

Jesus, keep my eyes on You.

Help me stand, help me stand for what’s right.

Help me walk, help me walk in the light.

Help me run, help me run for the prize.

Jesus, keep my eyes on you.

Jesus, keep my eyes on you.

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(Distribution is continuous style. Please come to the communion rail and kneel or stand. As a place at the communion rail becomes open, please come forward and take that spot. After receiving the bread and the wine and you feel comfortable, please dismiss yourself to return to your seat; the post communion blessing will be given to all at the end.)

Welcome to the Table of the Lord

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

The Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

The Closing: Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord!

Hallelu! Hallelu! Halelu! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Repeat

English & Hebrew. Composed by **Louis Lewandowski** (1821-1894).

Our Vision:

All: Through Word and Sacrament ministry, we share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ among ourselves and with those around us.

Pastor: Our worship has ended, our service now begins. Let us go in peace.

All: And serve the Lord

Rich Richards Memorial Service (Nancy Richards husband)

Wednesday, December 6th

Serenity Meadows, 6919 Providence Road, Riverview, FL

Visitation – 10:30am

Service – 11:30am

Committal in Bushnell at Florida National Cemetery at 2pm

Reception at Nancy Richards house at 5pm

3052 Wister Circle, Valrico, FL

Altar flowers are placed to the glory of God and in memory of Hazel Patton, mother of Beverly Mueller-Mackey and in honor of birthday of Flor Sanabria

Services will be live-streamed and a recording of service will be posted by the end of the day. You may watch these on Facebook, YouTube or go to website under Worship or scroll down on home page and find the latest services.

Please keep the church office updated on prayers that have been asked to be kept on indefinitely, military and ones for continued healing or cancer treatments.

Continued Prayers

Peace & comfort for the family of Shirlee Glass, mother of Lise Seedroff

Peace & comfort for the family of Marina Abiera

We pray to God our Lord for Pastor Miguel and our Hispanic Ministry in Immanuel

Healing or Good Test Results

Beverly Fox, mother of ILS principal Bonne Faherty

Adam, nephew of the Kelp's

Battling with Cancer or Serious Illness

Andrew Hynick, father of Aaron Hynick

Gloria McNail, aunt of Susan Tumlin

Heather Boatwright, friend of Cindy Szczesny

Tammy Granger, friend of Danielle Farnsworth

David, son-in-law of Nancy Christianson

Cassandra, niece of Pat Cook

Walt Nea

DeeAnn Cook, sister-in-law of Steve & Pat Cook

Christine Van Etten

Barbara LaVere

Cathy Nichols with terminal cancer, mother of Cathy Wilson

Tom Meyferth

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Safety for... and strength for families:

Kincaide Green, stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Robert Lowry

Joshua Littrel, stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY with the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division, 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans

Luke Buchholz, Navy, grandson of Ann Donahue, stationed at Norfolk, VA

Matthew Reikowski as he is deployed on the Carl S. Vinson

Logan Crouse, US Army, great-nephew of Joan Crouse, stationed at Ft. Campbell in NC

Samuel Drake, Captain stationed at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, NM, son of Kerry Drake

Cpl. Xander Ritter, USMC, stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA

Gavin Mattson, para-rescue man, stationed in the Panhandle of FL, grandson of Edith Mattson

ALSO, FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILIES

Sunday: Bonnie Petersen

Monday: Scott Petersen

Tuesday: Bob Petrosky

Wed: Frank & Faith Plumb

Thurs: Tom & Betsy Proeschel, Matthew, Caroline, Wendy, Will

Friday: Peg Rankin, Kelsey, Lilah

Saturday: Ken & Ellen Reikowski

PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Sunday Kinsley Lytle

Monday: Christian Maenza

Tuesday: Ada Maillet

Wed: Pam & Emma Malave

Thurs: Madilyn, Malachi & Marrison Malott

Friday: Ayana Maultsby

Saturday: Abriana, Charlie, Nicholas Martin

Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank You for the opportunity to host Pastor Phil and his wife, Christine this week. We pray You would move all of us to bountifully share the love, the joy, and the peace of our Savior, Jesus in all the meetings Pastor will have with church and school staff, with the various Boards, the Elders, our Church Council, and the gathering with our Immanuel Family members this coming Saturday. We pray the Holy Spirit's guidance for Pastor Phil and Christine as they ponder the call we have extended for our Senior Pastor.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Almighty God, Judge and King, the whole creation waits for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace and fill our lives with Your presence. Use all of our time for Your gracious purpose; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.