

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023—10:15am

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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

**Welcome:** Pastor Kent

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**Hymn: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE**

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining:  
Jesus Light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

*Chorus:*

Shine, Jesus, Shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,  
Send forth Your Word,  
Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your Awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By Your blood I may enter Your brightness:  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

*Chorus*

Graham Kendrick

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## THY WORD

### *Refrain:*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
Still you're there right beside me.  
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

### *Refrain*

I will not forget your love for me, and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side.  
I will love You to the end.

### *Refrain*

By Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

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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**

## Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*(Silent reflection)*

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

**Children’s Song:** “This Little Light of Mine

This little Gospel light of mine,  
I’m going to let it shine;  
This little Gospel light of mine,  
I’m going to let it shine;  
This little Gospel light of mine,  
I’m going to let it shine,  
Let it shine all the time,  
Let it shine

All around the neighborhood  
I’m going to let it shine;  
All around the neighborhood  
I’m going to let it shine;  
All around the neighborhood  
I’m going to let it shine,  
Let it shine all the time,  
Let it shine.

**Children’s Message:** Pastor Fuqua

**The Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle Reading** – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.

<sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good.

<sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel is written in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of St. John beginning at the 6<sup>th</sup> verse  
*(The day and hour of Christ's return is unknown)*

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

<sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

<sup>25</sup> They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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**

**Sermon – "Do's, Don't's, Done"      Pastor Fuqua**

**Offerings and Pledges are gathered**

**Prayer of the Church**

### **The Prayers**

Strength & Comfort for Cristian, diagnosed with diabetes at an early age, son of friend of Alejandro Guerrero

*(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: "The Lamb"**

The Lamb, the Lamb.

O Father where's the sacrifice

Faith see, believes God will

Provide the Lamb of price!

Chorus:

Worthy is the Lamb

Whose death makes me His own!

The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb

One perfect final offering.

The Lamb, the Lamb,

Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing

Chorus

The Lamb, the Lamb

As wayward sheep their shepherd kill

So still, His will on our behalf

The law to fill.

He signs, He dies

He takes my sin and wretchedness

He lives, forgives, he gives me

His own righteousness

Chorus

He rose, He rose

My heart with thanks now overflows

His song prolong till every

Heart to Him belong

Chorus

*(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: "Days Of Elijah"

These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days  
Of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

### CHORUS

Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are as white in the world  
And we are the labourers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord

### CHORUS

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**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

**Altar flowers are placed to the glory of God.**

*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**

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

**Healing or Good Test Results**

Christine Garrett  
Barbara Abel  
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: Milo & Teri Rozehnal  
Monday: James & Megan Rubocki, Riley, Miles, Leighton  
Tuesday: Tony & Mary Russo, Christine  
Wed: Julie Ryden  
Thurs: Pastor Miguel & Katherine Sanabria, Jr.  
Friday: Pastor Miguel & Deaconess Flor Sanabria, Sr  
Saturday: Craig Sawicki, Toni

**PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES**

Sunday Mason, Ja’Nylah, Massiah Morrissey  
Monday: Amira & Angelina Nelson  
Tuesday: Andrew Nicholson  
Wed: Mathias Noria  
Thurs: Sara Mahdavi Ojeda  
Friday: Emma Ortiz  
Saturday: Jacob, Jayden, Jann, Keyriamys Ortiz

The Call Committee encourages everyone to meditate on these scripture verses and continue praying for Pastor Phil, his family and all they will be dealing with over the next few months:

**Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.** Psalm 27:14  
**And I will give you Pastors, according to mine heart, which will feed you with knowledge and understanding.** Jeremiah 3:15

*Oh LORD, You gave us the strength and peace to wait, and You responded with sending to us Pastor Phil Ressler. We are blessed. And so we rejoice and give You all the glory, the praise and the thanks. We pray now that You will prepare the way with the right home and all that Pastor Phil and his family will need to make this transition and move. Along with Pastor Phil, we pray also that You will calm any fears and anxiousness that the congregation, Good Shepherd in Old Bridge, the church he is leaving, may have and prepare them for the pastor they will be seeking. We pray all of these things in the precious and holy name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen*

**PRAYER FOR THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

*Almighty God, Judge and King, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the message of salvation in Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace and help us all our days to proclaim Your salvation, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever Amen.*

**Holiday Worship Schedule**

**Advent Bi-Lingual Services - 6:30 p.m.  
December 6th, 13th and 20th  
Preservice meals at 5:30pm**

**Christmas Eve—10am Communion  
5:00pm Family Service Bilingual Candlelight  
7pm—Candlelight**

**Christmas Day - 10am Communion**