

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023—10am

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.

White grape juice is now available in the center of the communion tray for those who cannot partake of alcohol

Prelude

Welcome: Pastor Dave / Pastor Miguel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH "Angels Candle"

As the Season of Advent starts we look to the promise given by the prophets who long ago foretold of the coming King. The fourth advent candle is called the angels candle and it is blue like the first two.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. *(Luke 1:26)*

Please note that in the hymnal whenever we see a small triangle next to a hymn verse, that triangle means the Trinity is proclaimed in that verse and we are to stand for that verse.

Hymn: #670 "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, Bright
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, More
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, Ye
 Δ 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, Su -



ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, Raise the glad strain:
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, Lead their prais - es:
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia,
 per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia,



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
 al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly Twelve, ye mar - tyrs
 al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, Vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
 Word, Most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
 strong, All saints tri - um - phant, raise the
 Son, And God the Spir - it, Three in



choirs: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 Lord: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 song: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 One: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: Last week we were called to be joyful always.

People: **Yet we become cynical in many ways. We are cynical of others, our government, and the church. We confess our cynicism and the times when we have sat, doing nothing when we should have acted.**

Pastor: This week we hear of the impossible happening. We often limit our horizons to what we know we ourselves can do. Mary asked this when she said, "How will this be?"

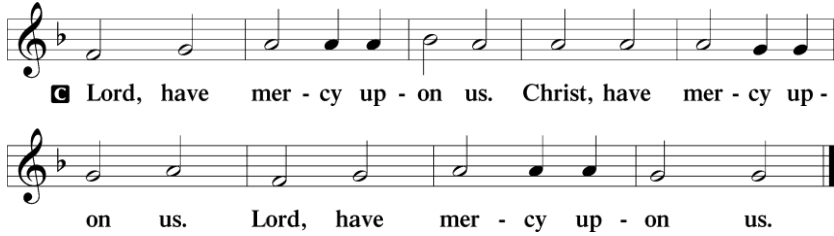
People: **We ask the same question when we face what seems to be impossible, like death.**

Pastor: Help us in every situation to live by faith. Help us to understand that nothing is impossible for You.

People: **Lord, remind us to look to Jesus and trust in Him. For He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Lord, we confess our sins and the walls we construct between us. (silent confession)**

Pastor: For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. (Ephesians 2: 14) The mercy of Jesus has destroyed the wall between us and our Lord. By the grace of the cross your sins are forgiven. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Salutation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Collect for The Day

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

People: **Amen.** *(Please be seated)*

Old Testament Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

(God promises David's Kingdom will last forever)

¹ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,² he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

³ Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?

⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling:

⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

⁸ "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.

⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.

¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading – Hebrews 13:1-2

(Some have entertained angels and have not known it)

¹³ Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

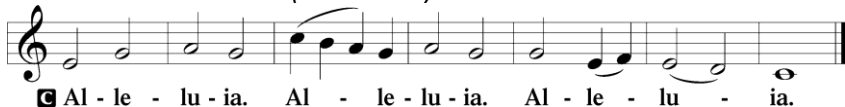
² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message: Pastor Dave

Alleluia and Verse *(Please rise)*



The Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel is written in the 1st chapter of St. Luke beginning at the 26th verse.

(The angel Gabriel speaks to Mary)

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

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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 #367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: "A Heavenly Voice Talking of Jesus" Pastor Dave

Offerings are gathered

The Prayers

Successful brain cancer treatment for Alan Conidin, friend of Cindy Szczesny

Good test results for Ted, brother-in-law of Bill & Jackie Anton

Good test results for Michael Launikitis

Praise and thanks that God let Pastor Phil to accept our call as Sr. Pastor, and that He has provided him & family with the home they need! Bless them with good health over the holidays.

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Prayer *(Please stand)*

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.

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

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: He has made that promise and so He sent Jesus

People: **His name shall be Emmanuel, God with us.**

Pastor: The promised Messiah’s name is great.

People: **And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: He does what is impossible for us.

People: **In this meal He feeds not only the 5000, but all of God’s people.**

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

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

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: #356 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - - ri - a!

Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis *(Please stand)*



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

Pastor: Let us pray

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen, amen, amen.

Closing Hymn: #368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

Our Vision

- Pastor: As a reminder of the reason why we exist as a church let us speak our vision statement together.
- 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

Cristian, diagnosed with diabetes at an early age, son of friend of Alejandro Guerrero
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: Dorothy Schone
Monday: Steve & Sheryl Schumacher, Ethan
Tuesday: Regan Sciesinski, Brendan, Natalie, Andrew
Wed: Lise Seedroff
Thurs: Hortense Shanklin
Friday: Janet Shaw
Saturday: Ted & Lana Shield, Katarine, Kristina, Klarissa

PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Sunday Jaxon Overman
Monday: Riley Owens
Tuesday: Dairo & Mia Palmeiro
Wed: Audrey & Sophia Paoloemillo
Thurs: Alexander Paredes-Jimenez
Friday: David Paredes
Saturday: Braylon Parker

Holiday Service Schedule

Christmas Eve

7:00pm Candlelight/Communion

Christmas Day

10am service —Communion

Sunday, December 31st

8am, 10:15am & 11:30am

No Bible Study or Sunday School

PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Almighty God, Judge and King, when the time had fully come,
You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our
salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, to all the places
of the world where people desperately need You. Come and give
us the gift of Yourself; for You live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*