

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 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

This week's scripture readings deal with time and the New Year. What will the New year bring? 2023 was a year full of surprises and we are sure God has great plans for all of us in the future. In our opening responsive readings we have included first lines of famous books. Today marks the opening of another year of God's grace and blessings. We look forward to what God has planned in 2024.

Welcome: Pastor Dave

Hymn: Come Let Us Worship And Bow Down

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord

Our God our Maker

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord

Our God our Maker

For He is our God

And we are the people of His pasture

And the sheep of His hand

Just the sheep of His hand

CCLI Song #27329

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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: As we start this new year.

People: Help us to pray, for each other, and for all people.

Pastor: Help us to live by faith in You Lord, for You never fail. You are the Lord of Years and the potentate of time.

People: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." *(Hebrews 13:8)*

Pastor: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

People: **“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”** (*“A Tale of Two Cities,” Charles Dickens*)

Pastor: While God never changes our seasons in life do. Lord, help us fix our lives on Your eternal promises.

People: **“It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”** (*“1984” George Orwell*)

Pastor: In ominous seasons help us to see your light in the darkness.

People: **Call me Ishmael.** (*“Moby Dick” Herman Melville*)

Pastor: Help us to be on a quest this year to know you more.

People: **All children except one grow up.** (*“Peter Pan” J. M. Barrie*)

Pastor: Help us to grow in wisdom and knowledge and mature into the people you call us to be.

People: **“There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it.”** (*“The Voyage of the DawnTreader” C.S. Lewis*)

Pastor: May we know who we are at all times in our relationship to You. We are children of God and Heirs of heaven in Christ Jesus.

People: **Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. We confess that in the past year we have failed you. We have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have also not loved each other the way we love ourselves. Lord forgive us and help us in 2024 to grow in faith, in love, and in service.**

(Silent reflection)

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. In every generation and in every year You are a God who forgives. By the promise of the cross and Jesus your sins are forgiven this day and even forevermore.

Children’s Song: My God is so Great

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There’s nothing my God cannot do!

Repeat

The mountains are His, the rivers are His,

The stars are His handiwork too,

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There’s nothing my God cannot do!

For you!

Children’s Message: Pastor Dave

The Old Testament Reading – Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (*The seasons of life*)

¹There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ²a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, ⁶a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹What do workers gain from their toil?

¹⁰I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading – Romans 8:31-39 (*St. Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus*)

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus 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 2nd chapter of St. Luke beginning at the 21st verse
(*The song of Simeon upon seeing the child Jesus*)

People: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

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: #733 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon – "A Year to Remember" *Pastor Dave*

Offerings are gathered

Prayer of the Church

The Prayers

Healing for the grandmother of the Cripple family, friends of Bryan Becknel

Healing from a stroke for Fred Weimer, friend of Larry Habeck

Healing from heart problems for Don Swisher, friend of Larry Habeck

Good test results and Dr's wisdom for Pam Murphy

(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: #638 "Eat This Bread"



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev - er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.



1 This is His bod - y giv - en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.



2 As of - ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un - til He comes a - gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be - lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

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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: “All The People Said Amen”

Chorus:

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

Verse:

You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need

Chorus

And all the people said amen

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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.

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the ways you remembered us during Christmas. We received many beautiful greetings, hugs, and gifts and then on Christmas Eve the congregation gift was presented.

We are truly grateful for all of you and thank you so much for all your love and support, all to the glory of God.

In Christ, Pastor Miguel and Katherine

We want to extend our love and appreciation in thanks for all the gifts and greetings and Pastor’s Purse. We are grateful for all of you and wish you all many blessings in the coming year.

In Christ, Pastor Dave & Karen Haara

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

Praise and thanks that God led 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.

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

Healing or Good Test Results

Kyle Hawkins

Ted, brother-in-law of Bill & Jackie Anton

Michael Launikitis

Cristian, diagnosed with diabetes at an early age, son of friend of Alejandro Guerrero

Christine Garrett

Adam, nephew of the Kelp's

Battling with Cancer or Serious Illness

Alan Conidin, friend of Cindy Szczesny

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: GraceAnn Sierra, Christian, Benjamin, Daniel, Christian Jr

Monday: Ted & Angie Simon

Tuesday: Lynda Smith

Wed: Tom & Trish Smith

Thurs: Edie Sparks

Friday: Bill & Kathy Steele

Saturday: Sue Steenis, Jim

PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Sunday: Kenna Parkinson

Monday: Skylar Paulen

Tuesday: Elijah Perez

Wed: Nathan Pirozzi

Thurs: Korina Pittman

Friday: Gianna & Dominic Ponzi

Saturday: Aubrey Postell