

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Second Sunday in Advent December 7, 2025



AS WE GATHER

Bear Fruit in Keeping with Repentance

The problem with good works is not *that* we should do them but *why*. Our works reflect what it is we believe and hold dear. Works are the fruit of repentance and faith and do not add to what Christ has done in His mighty work of redemption. The call to bear the good fruit of repentance is not to work harder to be saved but to manifest in our everyday lives that we are saved, that we belong to the Lord, and that He has accomplished all things for our salvation. John faced a generation impressed with their works and empty of faith in God's mercy. We should know that doing works is not a choice. Hearts of faith will produce the good fruits of repentance. This is the calling of Christians and the mark of the work of the Spirit in our lives.

PRELUDE

HYMN "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

#347

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 72:2, 4, alt.; Philippians 1:6

Pastor: May God judge His people with righteousness and justice.

People: **May He defend the poor, deliver the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

✕ WORD ✕

KYRIE *pew hymnal page 151*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **♪ Lord have mercy**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **♪ Lord have mercy**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **♪ Lord have mercy**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord have mercy

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

People: ♪ Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast" *pew hymnal page 155*

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**
2. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**
3. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.
4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**
5. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. **Final Refrain**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ Amen

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 11:1-10

("There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.")

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Romans 15:4-13

("May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.")

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

ALLELUIA and VERSE *pew hymnal page 156*

♪ **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?**

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

("The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'")

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

People: ♪ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: ♪ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED *(found on the last page of the pew hymnal)*

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #344

SERMON *Pastor Mark Croucher*

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to acknowledge the Lord, who made all things for Himself, and for faith to trust in His mercy incarnate in Jesus Christ, His Son, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the church established by Christ and sustained by Him through the means of grace, for boldness to call a world to repentance, and for faithfulness to proclaim His Gospel without fear, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all the nations and peoples of the earth and for those who lead them, but especially for this nation, our president, governor, legislators, and magistrates, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grateful hearts to receive the good fruits of the earth with thanksgiving and for wisdom that we might bear the good fruit of repentance in our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all godly and noble vocations, for marriages and children, for the single and the retired, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For an end to poverty and need and for compassion that we may manifest charity for all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the sick, the suffering, the dying, and those who attend to them, Liz, Myron Betty, Karla, Dan and Ian, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all needs of body and soul, and for courage that we may not depart the way of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

pew hymnal page 160-166

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: ♪We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: ♪It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape

from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory.
Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company
of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore
praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:**
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: In speaking all things into being, You manifested both Your goodness and Your love. In sending forth the promise of a Savior, You showed forth Your compassion and mercy. In the fullness of time You brought forth Your promise, sending into the womb of the virgin by the power of the Spirit Your only-begotten Son. As He has accomplished all things for our salvation by the one, all-sufficient offering of His body on the cross, we give You thanks and praise that You have counted us worthy to stand before You and to receive the precious gift of His grace in His Meal, which He established by His own will and testament.

People: ♪ **Amen**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

PAX DOMINI

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

People: ♪ **Amen**

AGNUS DEI

♪ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

♪ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪A-men

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: ♪ A-men

HYMN "Sing Praise to the God of Israel" #936

POSTLUDE

THE MESSENGER

December 7, 2025

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Pr. Mark Croucher
Linda Rayburn, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: **22 total: 1 guest**

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, "**Pictures of Patience**"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Patience can be practiced, tested, strained, and lost. Christians are called to return the patience God in His mercy has shown us, in Christ. (James 5:7-8)
Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.