

# Immanuel Lutheran Church



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## First Sunday After Christmas December 28, 2025



### AS WE GATHER

#### **It's Still Christmas**

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

**PRELUDE**  
**WELCOME**

*"Pastoral Melody," by Iouri Grichetchkine`*

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN** "Let All Together Praise Our God" #389 v1-3

*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.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 111:1–6*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

**People: in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Pastor: Great are the works of the Lord,

**People: studied by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

**People: and His righteousness endures forever.**

Pastor: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

**People: the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear Him;

**People: He remembers His covenant forever.**

Pastor: He has shown His people the power of His works,

**People: in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

**HYMN** "Let All Together Praise Our God" #389 v4-5

**PSALM** *Psalm 111:7–10*

Pastor: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

**People: they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Pastor: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

**People: Holy and awesome is His name!**

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

**People: His praise endures forever!**

**HYMN** "Let All Together Praise Our God" #389 v6-7

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14*

Pastor: O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, "the fullness of time," that is not true in our personal lives.

**People: Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.**

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

**People: Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.**

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

**People: Forgive us for not giving Your leading us "a glorious name," forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.**

Pastor: Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, "Abba! Father!" As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## **ANTIPHON**

Pastor: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

**People: ♪ For He is our maker.**

## VENITE *hymnal page 220-221*

♪ O come, let us sing unto the Lord,  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,  
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

For the LORD is a great God  
and a great king above all gods.  
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;  
the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, and He made it,  
and His hands form-ed the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our maker.  
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture  
and the sheep of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son ✠ and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen.

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.  
O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully  
created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more  
wondrously restored our human nature.

People: **Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made  
Himself to be like us;**

Pastor: through 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 63:7-14

*(Although the Israelites have rebelled, God will help them.)*

Pastor:      This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**    **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**      Galatians 4:4-7

*(All God's promises are sure because we are God's children.)*

Pastor:      This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**    **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**VERSE**      Luke 2:30,32

**Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 2:22-40

Pastor:      The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 APOSTLE'S CREED** *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN**      "In His Temple Now Behold Him"      #519

**SERMON**      "The Return from Christmas"      Luke 2:22-40  
                    *Rev. Paul Hoemann*

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

*"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt," text by Jurosloav Vajida, music by Carl Schalk  
(LSB 369) Soloist: Bob Buchholz*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**We give Thee but Thine own,  
What e’er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee,**

**May we Thy bounties thus,  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our first-fruits give!**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:**      Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer.  
For the church, that the news of Christ’s birth among us would  
bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:**      **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:**      For those who have rebelled against all that our caring God has  
lavished upon them and that He would open their hearts and  
minds, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:**      **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:**      For those who have not heard about Jesus’ birth, about our  
Savior’s willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about  
their own salvation, that God would surround them with people  
of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:**      **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:**      For all who tend fields, raise animals, distribute food, or work in  
supermarkets and roadside stands, that they recognize that  
they work to alleviate hunger and do what pleases our heavenly  
Father, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:**      **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:**      For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all  
who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue,  
that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us  
pray to the Lord.

**People:**      **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those near and dear to us, especially Liz, Myron, Betty, Karla, Dan and Ian, that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: ♪ And with thy spirit.**

## **BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

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.**

**HYMN** "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" #390

## **POSTLUDE**

*"He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child," arranged by Keith Christopher*

## **THE MESSENGER**

December 28, 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:**      Rev. Paul Hoemann  
   Linda Rayburn, Organist

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

**LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE:**    25 Total, 4 guests

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** theme for next Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> is "**Knowing and Being Known in a New Year**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. John 17:3 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.