

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025**

Glory, Fear, Peace, and Favour



As We Gather

We come together to celebrate Christmas. Many times, our celebrations come with lots of music, decorations, joyous conversations, and laughter, and we cannot forget the presents under the tree and the stockings hung by the chimney with care. Yet there is a different reality we encounter tonight. We see the glory of the Lord descending to us in the Christ Child, who was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger. And in Him, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met” tonight as we join our voices with the angels, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” (*LSB* 361:1; *Luke* 2:14).

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #361

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.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:8–9*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Pastor: There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

People: **And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 2:10, 14*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,

People: **we gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.**

Pastor: The angel said to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” So, as God’s servant, I say to you, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy.” As a called and ordained servant in Christ’s church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
**People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among
those with whom He is pleased!”**

✠ **WORD** ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O
Lord, descended from the royal throne.

People: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

Pastor: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take
counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed. He
who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His
fury, saying, “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy
hill.”

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O
Lord, descended from the royal throne.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace.

People: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High” #368

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the
brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the
mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the
fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ,
Your Son, 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 9:2-7

("To us a child is born, to us a son is given.")

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 96*

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

HYMN **"Joy to the World" #387 v1**

Pastor: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!

HYMN **"Joy to the World" #387 v2**

Pastor: Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

HYMN **"Joy to the World" #387 v3**

Pastor: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

HYMN **"Joy to the World" #387 v4**

EPISTLE Titus 2:11-14 *(God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation.)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE *Luke 2:11*

Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 (*The birth of the Christ Child*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd 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.**

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

Please be seated.

HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #366

SERMON Rev. Croucher

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The glory of the Lord has come down to us in Christ. Alleluia!**

Pastor: O Wonderful Counselor,

People: **hear our prayers and grant us Your peace and favor.**

Pastor: O Mighty God,

People: **give us eyes to see Your glory, ears to hear Your grace, and mouths to voice Your praise.**

Pastor: O Everlasting Father,

People: **You sent Your Son into this world to be born of the virgin Mary, suffer under Pontius Pilate, be crucified, die, and be buried before rising to life again on the third day to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Yourself a people for Your own possession. We thank and praise You for making us Your people and making Your favor shine on us.**

Pastor: O Prince of Peace,

People: **we ask that You give us the peace that surpasses all understanding, that we trust that You have come into our imperfect world to bring the perfect gift of salvation, which You have freely given to us.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O gracious Lord, we place our prayers and praise. We place ourselves and our loved ones into Your care, trusting in Your mercy and coming to You with confidence, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

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, our Savior, Christ the Lord, for You descended from Your heavenly throne to be born of a virgin in the city of David, wrapped in swaddling cloths, laid in a manger to be our Immanuel, God with us, and to save Your people from their sins. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the heavenly host, we praise and honor Your glorious name and join in their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

pew hymnal #208

♪ **Ho-ly; ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name
Sing hosanna in the highest sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, the Child who was born, the Son who was given and was born in the city of David, our Savior, Christ the Lord. We celebrate the grace of God appearing, bringing salvation for all people. Gathered this night, we remember Your birth and celebrate the gifts of Your life, death, and resurrection. Forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat at Your banquet Table and receive Your body and blood to redeem and purify us.

Graciously receive our prayers, deliver us from our fears, and give us peace and favor; for You rule and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

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

pew hymnal #210

♪ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS

pew hymnal #211

♪ O Lord, now let Your servant, depart in heav'nly peace.
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace;
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill;
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We thank You this night for the glory of the Lord appearing to us in, with, and under the bread and wine to give us forgiveness and peace. Renew our hearts and lives so we may reveal Your grace and favor to the world; for You live and reign as one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

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.**

HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” #363

POSTLUDE

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Serving us today:

Pastor Mark Croucher
Linda Rayburn, Organist
Dan Henggeler, Piano
Tony Swischer, Trumpet