

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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First Sunday in Advent November 30, 2025



AS WE GATHER

Who Is This Man?

Today is not only the First Sunday in Advent but also the commemoration of St. Andrew, whose day governs the start of Advent. In this way, Andrew continues to point to Christ as we begin a new Church Year. How odd it is, then, that the Gospel for the First Sunday in Advent is the same as the Gospel for Palm Sunday! This reminds us that Jesus came for the cross and empty tomb, and this is the only Gospel that can save us from sin and death. In order to enjoy the fruits of His redeeming work, we must be able to answer "Who is this?" (Matthew 21:10). This question of the crowd also becomes a question for us as we enter into Advent and a new Church Year. We marvel at this man, also true God, who is born among us in flesh and blood, who suffers and dies to win salvation for us, and who will come in His glory to bring all things to their perfect consummation and bliss.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & BIRTHDAY BLESSING 11/28 Lincoln Moore,
11/30 Linda Rayburn

♪ Thanks for our friends who celebrate
And God's rich blessings contemplate.
Praise for another year on earth.
Praise to the Lord who gives us birth. **Amen.**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” #340

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 *Romans 13:12; Philippians 1:6*

Pastor: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

People: **So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.**

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

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 *pew hymnal 204*

♪To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth;
Good-will from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing;
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-be-gotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins a-way.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in Pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever; Be worshipped and adored.
You with the Holy Spirit; A-lone are Lord Most High;
In God the Father's glory; "A-men"! our glad re-ply.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, Your Spirit, that we recognize and believe in the witness of His coming in flesh, prepare and proclaim Him who comes here in His Word and Supper, and welcome Him with joy when He comes in His glory at the end of all days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of all the ages.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

("Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.")

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 13:11-14

("Put on the armor of light.")

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE

Luke 13:29

Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

(Rejoice, Jerusalem, for Your Lord comes to You.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st 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 your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

#332

SERMON

Pastor Mark Croucher

OFFERING and OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray on behalf of the world, those with special need, and for all the faithful.

That we may depart from the ways of the wicked and manifest in word and deed our faith in His Word and our delight in His will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may resist the temptation to despair in time of trouble and manifest a joyful heart and hope in all circumstances of this mortal life, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may enjoy the gift of good government, wise and faithful leaders, and peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That those who suffer in any want or need—the sick, grieving, and those troubled in mind or soul—may be granted healing and comfort, especially Liz, Myron, Betty, Karla, Dan and Ian, and that all may be preserved in faith and holiness to the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may be united in doctrine and life and that in the unity of this Table all who here receive the Sacrament may be granted discernment of Christ's body and blood and faith to receive this communion to their benefit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ 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 good, right, and fitting that we might sing at all times and in every place, but most especially on this day, when we commemorate before You blessed Andrew, apostle, and join our voices with those of every time and place to praise Your goodness in sending forth Your own Son to rescue Your people from their sin and raise them to life again. Therefore with the prophets who proclaimed Him who was to come, with the apostles who proclaimed His coming, and with the saints before us who proclaimed this Gospel that we might believe, we join the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven in their unending hymn of praise, singing:

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: In the dawn of time, You spoke creation and all things into being and proclaimed them good. In many and various ways, O Lord, You spoke through the prophets the promise of a Savior to restore Your people from the exile of sin and death. In the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit. Now, You continue to send forth to us the fruits of His redeeming work in this Holy Communion of His body and blood, according to His own promise and testament.

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*

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: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: With praise and thanksgiving for all Your mercy shown to us, we proclaim Jesus Christ, the man among men, whom You sent to be our Savior and Redeemer. Grant that we may ever cling to Him whom we have heard in His Word and whom we have received in this Holy Sacrament, that we may be ready to receive Him when He comes in His glory; 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 on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Once He Came in Blessing" #333

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments Matins from Lutheran Service Book and The Lutheran Hymnal. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE MESSENGER

November 30, 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. Mark Croucher
Linda Dunn, Organist

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

LAST SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 21 total, 3 guests

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, December 7th is **"Chosen for What?"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what? (Romans 15:7) Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.