

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve - December 24, 2025

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Jon and Shelley Iverson

“The Cherry Tree Carol”

“I Wonder as I Wander”

WELCOME

***HYMN, “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (vv. 1-3) LBW Hymn 45**

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful,

Green Book

Joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him

Born the king of angels:

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy,

Light of Light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father

Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God

In the highest. *Refrain*

*CHRISTMAS DIALOG

P The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light. *Isaiah 9:2*

C **The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.** *John 1:5*

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

C **We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.** *John 1:14*

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. *Isaiah 9:6*

C **In him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.** *John 1:4*

P The Word was made flesh,
and we beheld his glory. *John 1:14*

C **Oh, come, let us worship him.** *Psalms 95:6*

*HYMN, “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

LBW Hymn 71

Green Book

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

***GREETING**

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☛ Almighty God,
you made this holy night shine
with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth
we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR, "A Festive Noel"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN, "Away in a Manger"

LBW Hymn 67

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Green Book

2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

— WORD —

FIRST READING, Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder;
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

(ESV)

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙌 Thanks be to God.



SECOND READING, Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

HYMN, “*I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*” LBW Hymn 69

Green Book

1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
The night of Jesus’ birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
And angels sang on earth.

2. The little child in Bethlehem,
He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav’n above
To help a world in need.

3. He dwells again in heaven’s realm,
The Son of God today;
And still he loves his little ones
And hears them when they pray.

6. And so I love each Christmas Eve,
And I love Jesus too;
And that he loves me ev’ry day
I know so well is true.



GOSPEL READING, Luke 2:1-7

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

📖 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (ESV)

HYMN, “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” (v. 1)

LBW Hymn 44

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Green Book

GOSPEL READING, Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (ESV)

HYMN, “The First Noel” (v. 1)**LBW Hymn 56***Green Book*

The first noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

GOSPEL READING, Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(ESV)

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN, “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (v. 3)**LBW Hymn 70***Green Book*

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

3. Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *Repeat Refrain.*

SERMON**Pastor David Baer**

***HYMN, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

LBW Hymn 60

Green Book

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king!”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king!”

3. Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king!”

THE PRAYERS

LBW Page 85

Response: **Ⓟ** Lord, in your mercy,
 ☞ Hear our prayer.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

As the offerings are received, Jon and Shelley Iverson make a musical offering to God: "Mary, Did You Know?"

— SACRAMENT —

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

(To the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel")

arr. Toby Rath

O Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, The one true God of Pow-er and might, Your

7 glo-ry fills the hea-vens and earth, Ho-san-na in the hig - est! Oh blessed, is

14 he, who comes_ to us who comes in the name of the Lord.

***PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION** **LBW Page 90**

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for all fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P In the night in which he was betrayed
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new testament in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Matthew 26:26-28

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

***LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW Page 91

**C 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.**

Matthew 6:9-13

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is being served by intinction. Come forward through the center aisle. The pastor will give you the bread. Take the bread and then proceed to one of the two servers. Dip the bread into the red wine or white grape juice and receive the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ together. During the distribution of the Lord's Supper, the congregation sings:

LAMB OF GOD

Tune: "The First Noel"

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

56

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

John 1:29

HYMN, "What Child Is This"

LBW Hymn 40

Green Book

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

HYMN, “*Angels from the Realms of Glory*”

LBW Hymn 50

Green Book

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Once you sang creation’s story;
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
You have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

HYMN, “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

LBW Hymn 55

Green Book

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

HYMN, “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

LBW Hymn 54

See the hymnal for the words of this hymn if necessary.

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***COMMUNION BLESSING**

☞ The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his holy and precious blood strengthen and keep you in true faith unto life everlasting.

☞ Amen.

***LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES**

The pastor will light a candle from an altar candle, symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World. The ushers will light their candles from the pastor's candle and then light the candles of those nearest the center aisle who will share the light with those in their pew. A lighted candle should always be held upright. Please tilt only unlit candles to receive the light.

***GOSPEL READING, John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to bear witness to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



***HYMN, “*Silent Night, Holy Night*”**

LBW Hymn 65

Green Book

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

***PRAYER**

☞ Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☛ **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

Numbers 6:24-26

☞ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

☛ **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

☞ Go in peace, like the shepherds on that first Christmas,
glorifying and praising God for all that you have heard and seen.

🕯 **Thanks be to God.**

The candles are extinguished.

***HYMN, “Joy to the World”**

LBW Hymn 39

Green Book

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev’ry heart prepare him room

And heav’n and nature sing,

And heav’n and nature sing,

And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

Poinsettias are Given

- ✳ In celebration of Jesus Christ by a Child of God.
- ✳ In memory of their parents John Zwingelberg, Jim Aldren, and June Jolley by Jon and Heidi Aldren and family.
- ✳ In memory of Clarence and Virginia Rath, Jim Baer, David Sturgeon, and their grandparents by David and Joanne Baer.
- ✳ In memory of Dolly Rizzi, DeDe Ghery, Deb Christensen, Arnie Arnio, David Arnio, and Brian Burleson by Chris and Bill Burleson and sons.
- ✳ In memory of Norma Dubbe by Don Dubbe.
- ✳ In memory of Helen Douhan by Randee Barker.
- ✳ In memory of their parents, sisters, brother, and brothers-in-law by Bruce and Kathie Flagstad.
- ✳ To the glory of God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Gail and Midge Hemeyer.
- ✳ In memory of Melanie Wicken by Tim and Valerie Meiners.
- ✳ In memory of her parents, Fritz and Millie Reller, and in-laws, Dean and Sally O'Dea, by Dale O'Dea.
- ✳ In memory of Robert and Caroline Kennebeck and Iva O'Grady by Roger and Ellen O'Grady.
- ✳ In memory of their daughter Mary Quail by Duane and Harriet Quail.
- ✳ In memory of Lois's father, Arlan Fiechtner, and Toby's parents, Virginia and Clarence Rath, and in honor of Lois's mother, Ellen Fiechtner, by Toby and Lois Rath.
- ✳ In memory of Bart and Joanne Beacom, Carolyn and Ernest Illian, and Don Beacom by Jim and Connie Ross.
- ✳ In memory of their daughter Laurie K. Hardin by LeRoy and Linda Sandidge.
- ✳ In memory of Paul Swisher by his family.
- ✳ In honor of their family by Doug and Ardean Wessel.
- ✳ In memory of Bryan Westberg, Anna Westberg, Joshua Ailts, John Zwingelberg, and Millie and Glen Westberg.



A WARM WELCOME to all who are worshiping Jesus — the baby of Bethlehem and our Lord and Savior — with us tonight. A special welcome to all who are visiting. All of us at Immanuel wish you a very blessed Christmas. It is our hope that you will be blessed by your time with us and that you will join us again for worship soon. Visitors, please sign the guest register in the narthex.

HOLY COMMUNION is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine. All baptized Christians who trust that Jesus is true to his promise — giving his body and blood with the bread and wine for you for the forgiveness of your sins — are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper with us.

SPECIAL THANKS to all those who are serving in our worship tonight by assisting with worship and by providing special music. We appreciate you giving of yourself this Christmas.

ONLINE WORSHIP: We stream our Sunday worship service on the internet for those who are unable to gather with us for worship. You can join the service live at 9 a.m. on Sunday or watch the recording of the service at a later time. Links to the service are on our website: *immanuellutheranwhitewoodsd.com*. The bulletin is posted to the website prior to the live broadcast.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 are available on the table in the library social room. Please take your envelopes and use them as you give to God's work through our congregation. Offering envelopes help us to meet our legal obligation to provide tax receipts for giving to Immanuel and serve as a reminder to give regularly. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like them, please talk to Ray Follum or Pastor David.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON from the North American Lutheran Church are available online. You can request daily emails or text messages, watch the devotions online, or download a printed copy at *thenalc.org/advent*. The devotion for December 26 is by Pastor David.