

Fourth Sunday *after* Epiphany



January 29, 2023

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Norwood, PA ~ Phone: 610.586.5860

www.immanuelnorwood.org

The People of Immanuel are Ministers of the Church
The Rev Scott R. Lee, Pastor
Kathleen Schneider, Director of Music
Immanuel Welcomes Organist, Quintin Lerch!

Please pick up your communion card and Fellowship cup on the way into the Sanctuary for Holy Communion.

PRELUDE (*Prayerful time for reflection.*)

^MISSION STATEMENT:

C: We of Immanuel are claimed, gathered, and sent by God to live Christ's example through worship, education, and service.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. (Kneeling as able.)

Holy One, source of our renewal, we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

^OPENING HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
 5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me.
 by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

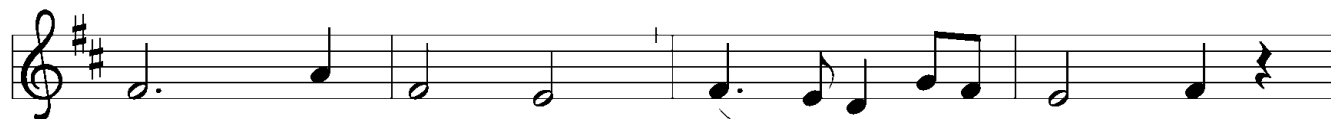
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

^KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

^HYMN OF PRAISE (*verse 1*)

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



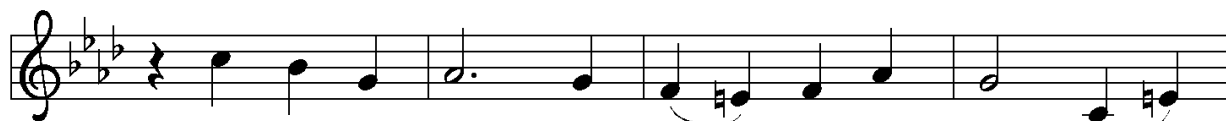
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
 Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

^PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 15 (*Read responsively*)

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who
fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their
word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes
against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and

foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th Chapter

C: **Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pr. Scott Lee

^HYMN

When Our Song Says Peace



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
 2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
 3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
 sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
 sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
 who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
 who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

^APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Kneeling as able.*)

Response: “Receive our prayer.”

^PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace.

OFFERING

We join other Christians in joyfully responding to God’s goodness, through your personal giving. The ushers will pass the offering plates during this time. For those who don’t feel comfortable passing the plates during Covid, we ask that you place your offering in the plates located at the front of the nave prior to the service, or after the service, in the plate on the table as you exit into the Hospitality area. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their supportive giving.

^OFFERTORY HYMN “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **Amen.**

+HOLY COMMUNION+

^GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *In the night he was betrayed.....*

^LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and taste the joy of God.

C: Amen

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of **Holy Communion**. Please pick up your communion card and “Fellowship Cup”, an all-in-one wafer and juice set (the bread and wine) when entering the sanctuary. The pastor says “The Body of Christ given for you.” and the assistant minister says, “The Blood of Christ shed for you.” Open the top protective film to uncover the “body” (an unleavened wafer), place in your mouth then open the 2nd protective film to uncover the “blood” (100% grape juice) and drink. Please dispose of your cup in the receptacle provided when leaving the sanctuary. Sign the communion card and place it in the offering plate.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod
 ✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

^HYMN

Come, We That Love the Lord *We're Marching to Zion*



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.
 heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

^DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

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As a **Reconciling in Christ congregation**, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood, commits to celebrating the love of God with ALL people as we are all made in God's image. Whatever your abilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, race, culture, faith tradition or economic circumstance; whatever your past or present – you are welcome to share in God's love and our community.

ReconcilingWorks
 LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| SUNDAY | Education Hour | 10:00 AM |
| | Annual Congregational Meeting | 12:00 PM |
| TUESDAY | Bible Study | 7:00 PM |
| | (Zoom) | |



Dec. Income - \$14,396

(includes Building rental income multi-month payments)

Dec. Expenses - \$12,195

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on today, **January 29, 2023**. It will follow the **11:00 AM Worship Service**.



Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity. We have 3 easy & virtual ways for people to donate to IMMANUEL. You will see on our Website and on our Facebook page "links" which you can click and make a secure donation. And here is a **QR code** which you can scan with your smart phone. Thank You for your continued generous support!



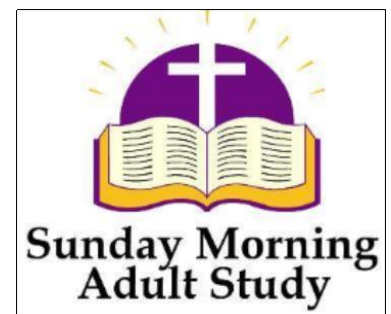
In the event of **Severe Weather** please call the church office at 610.586.5860 for a recorded announcement on the status of Sunday morning services. Closing announcement will be made no later than 6:30 AM to ensure ample time to plan your morning.

Acme/ShopRite Gift Cards! They are used like cash at any of the area stores. There is no extra charge for the certificates. **ACME** Our church receives 5% of the value of the coupons that you use. **Help us help our church!** See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for details.



2023 envelopes can be found on the table in the back of the church. To make other arrangements, or to pick up during the week, please call the office at 610.586.5860

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study. Please join us Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the choir room. We are starting a new video bible series on Jan 15th called "The Holy Land - Connecting the Land with its stories". All are welcome! We would love to have more people attend.



Immanuel's Heating Oil Special Giving Campaign Continues!

Our sincere "Thank you" to everyone who has been using our "OIL" envelopes to give extra! They are found on the BRIGHT GREEN display in the Hospitality area (just write your envelope number on it). If you have not already joined the effort you can start at any time!

Thank you from your Resource Committee and your Church Council



Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, 2023! The Interboro Ministerium is pleased to announce that on February 22nd we will hold a drive through imposition of ashes in the parking lot of St. Matthew Lutheran church located on Fairview Road, between MacDade Blvd. and Chester Pike. Please join us at 12PM on the corner of Fairview and Essex Ave in

Woodlyn PA.

The Interboro Ministerium will continue the tradition of worshipping together for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Watch for all your Lenten news in your Bulletins and March newsletter!

Where Does Our Offering Go? Do you ever wonder? Well as part of Resource's month of January we have done a presentation on the Chester Pike entrance bulletin board. It shows where our dollars go both here at Immanuel and when we send our "Mission Support" contribution (used to be called "Benevolence") to our Synod where those monies go to support Lutheran work here and around the globe. Have a look when you get a chance! Let us know if you have any questions.



Thank you for your support of Immanuel!!

Sincerely, Your Resource Committee (Jeanne Warner & Karl McClellan, Co-chairs and Sandy Hendrick)