

Winter Haven, FL 33881 winterhavenlutheran.org

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(414) 534-7279 (863) 967-5145 ¹ My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe. ² You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever. ³ Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty! ⁴ In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds! ⁵ Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you. ⁶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; ⁷ you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: WS #705

"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

- P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from conception. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.
- P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!
- **G** Amen!

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!
- Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,
- O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!
- P He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.
- He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD



PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- P Let us pray. ... and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Jeremiah 33:14-18 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I

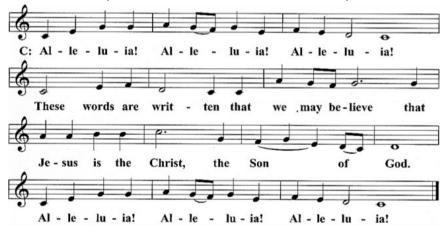
made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the



name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' ¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."

EPISTLE READING – Colossians 1:13-23 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN: Back of Bulletin "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

SERMON – Luke 1:5-23 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. ⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴

And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." 18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Learning from Zechariah's Advent Lessons

I. A lesson about the danger of reason

II. A lesson about the certainty of God's promises

OFFERTORY WS p.16

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

HYMN: WS #701 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed on the next page:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #568:1 "We Praise Thee, O God"

☑ A We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator, In grateful devotion our tribute we bring; We lay it before Thee, We kneel and adore Thee, We bless Thy holy name, glad praises we sing.

- ☑
 ☐ 1. Father in heaven, holy be Your name. Your kingdom come.

 Your will be done the same On earth as it is done in heav'n above.

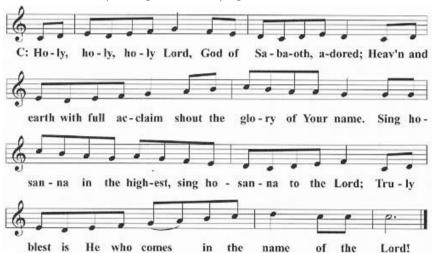
 Our Father, bless Your children with Your love.
 - 2. Our daily bread provide for us each day. As we forgive, so take our sins away. In time of tri-al, saving Lord, be near, From every evil our Deliverer.
 - 3. Yours is the kingdom; over all things reign. Yours is the pow-er; all things You maintain. Yours is the glory, sound it forth again. Forever and for evermore. Amen!



Order of Holy Communion



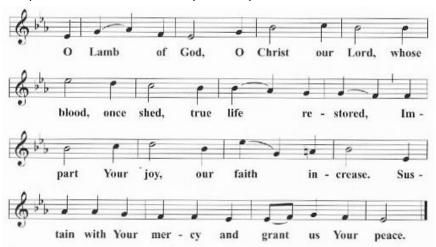
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts!
- We lift them up to the Lord!
- P It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God: Whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



Please Note: The Lord's Supper is described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 as a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicines, of course, it must be used at the right time for the right purpose by the right person, lest it do more harm than good. That is one reason we ask our visitors...please speak to the pastor before you commune with us. Thank you!

THE DISTRIBUTION

Approach at the usher's direction.

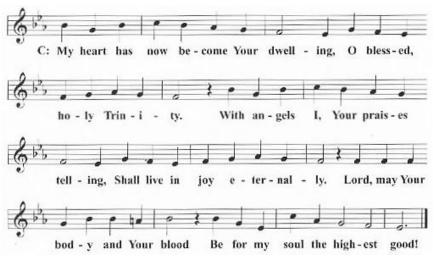
P Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace. Amen.



P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.



THE BENEDICTION:

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

- The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C Amen!

HYMN: TLH #70

"Hosanna to the Living Lord"

♣ Announcements **♣**

Advent Begins - Midweek Advent services begin this Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. the three Wednesdays between December 4 and 18, we will be focusing on the theme "Away in a Manger." Advent is a season of preparation for the Savior to come, and there is no better way to prepare for the Savior's birth than gathering together with fellow believers. If vou have never attended

Looking Ahead...

- Dec. 1: Communion and Christmas BIG Snack
- ♣ Dec. 1: Board of Ed
- ♣ Dec. 8: Board of Elders
- → Dec. 15: Board of Trustees and Church Council
- Dec. 19-23: Pastor out of town
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve 7 pm
- **Dec. 25:** Christmas Day 10:15a

midweek Advent or Lenten service before, I would strongly encourage you to start now. Please take time out of your evenings and join us this Wednesday!

Thank You to the Ladies of Immanuel for decorating the church yesterday!

Poinsettia Sign-up is in the back of church. Flowers this year will be \$10. Please sign up for a flower to help decorate the sanctuary this Christmas season! Payments can be given to Teresa Bernthal.

Auburndale Christmas Parade is taking place on Friday, December 6th, at 7pm. The parade runs from the corner of Havendale and 17, running west on Havendale to Publix. Immanuel will be having a float in the parade for the third straight year. If you are willing to help in any way, please speak with Neil Bernthal. If you would just like to sit and wave as the float goes by, show up early with some chairs and get a good spot along the route!

<u>CLC Call News</u> Pastor Paul Tiefel, Jr., Messiah, Eau Claire, has been called by Bethel, Morris, MN. <> Mr. Steve Sydow has returned the call extended to him by Berea, Sioux Falls, SD.

Christmas Shopping on Amazon? You now have the option to direct 0.5% of the money spent on your Amazon purchases to be donated by the company to our church and school. To do this, the next time you plan to shop on Amazon, visit https://smile.amazon.com and search for "Immanuel Lutheran Church Winter Haven" to find us (we are listed as Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church). Select the church as your charitable organization that you will be supporting, and any purchase you make will benefit the congregation. You will still have to visit https://smile.amazon.com when shopping for it to work; using the regular Amazon site will not leave a donation.

E-Giving is available for those who wish to use it. If you have PayPal, you can send your offering to "immanuelwinterhaven@gmail.com," or you can go to our church website and click the "PayPal" button at the bottom of the page for a direct link. If you send an offering this way, please select "Friends and Family." Using the note section, you are welcome to make designations for your offerings as well as include your envelope number.

<u>Shut-in/Encouragement List</u> Emily Kuehne suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain when standing or walking. Patti Meno continues to receive treatment for her kidney condition and is awaiting a transplant. Bill Issitt III remains mostly housebound while recovering from several health problems. Johanna Jaehnigen remains mostly housebound. Crystal Shaw has recently received a positive diagnosis and is awaiting more doctor analysis. Bill Hartmann's health is deteriorating. Bill Issitt Sr. is progressing very well. Loye Issitt is receiving regular dialysis. Delores Seger is in the hospital fighting lung cancer and pneumonia.

<u>Last Week</u> (11/24) WH – 31 Orlando – 143

General = \$991 | Scholarship = \$10 | ILC Building = \$15 | Missions = \$150 **Total Offering** = \$1,166

December Usher: Steve Goodwin | Cleaning (12/7): Custodio | Acolyte (12/8): Hayden

The Advent Wreath

The advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as the species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin and spiritual darkness. The 4 candles surrounding the center candle remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. Each of the candles has been assigned a special name with special significance.

The Prophecy Candle is the 1st candle lit the first week in Advent. It is symbolic of the long years of waiting during which the prophets, inspired of God, kept alive the hope that the son of God was coming to redeem His people from their sins.

