

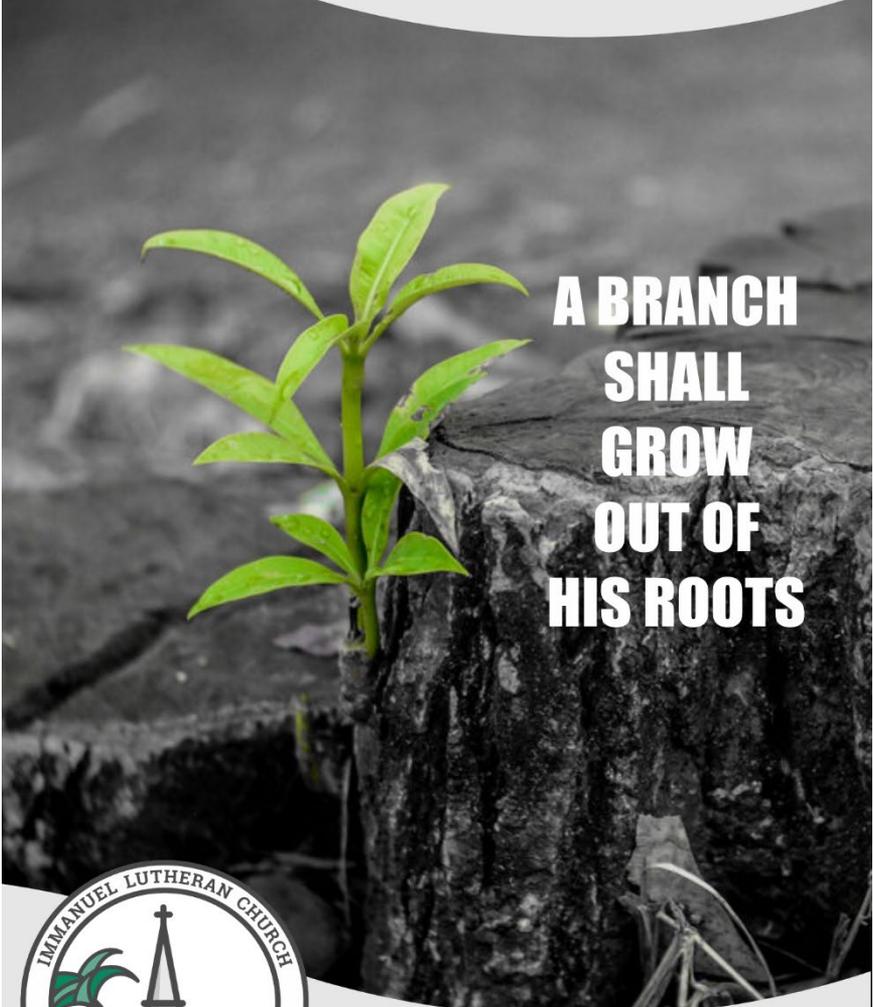
December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Darrin Ream

Acolyte: Maxwell Kuehne



**A BRANCH
SHALL
GROW
OUT OF
HIS ROOTS**



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

“The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God stands forever.”

– Isaiah 40:8

Welcome, everyone, in the Name of our Advent Savior! There is no Christian faith without trust in the Word of God that created the world, that gave hope to Adam and Eve, that was made flesh in the person of Jesus the Christ. So many words and so many sounds bombard us this time of year – some melodic, some not. What we desperately need is for our God to give us some silent moments, some time for sober and serene meditation upon the mystery of the birth of Jesus. We need these moments of inner quiet (if not outer!), so that we may hear and receive the quiet voice of the Christmas Word – really receive it into our hearts. For that Word, and no other sound of Christmas works in us an increase of faith, hope, and love in Christ, our Savior. Lord, let this hour of worship be such a time for every listener. Amen.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P The “Bethlehem Candle” reminds us that the son of God came down from heaven to a lowly manger bed to bring us His life and light. He came in humility, in the form of a carpenter’s son. As Philippians 2:5 says: Christ Jesus “being in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God something to be grasped (held on to), but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant when He came in the likeness of men.”

HYMN: WS #743 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

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

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

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.

C **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!

C Amen!

INTROIT

Ps. 105:4-8

P In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!

P Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

C 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.

C He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

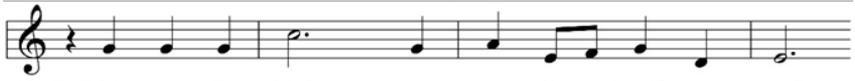
LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD



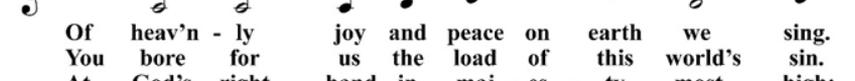
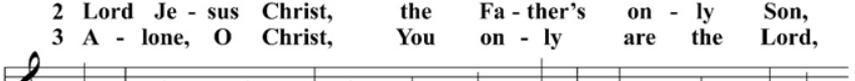
C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



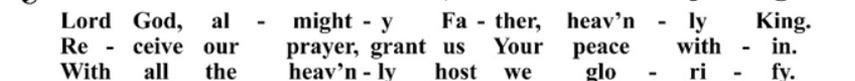
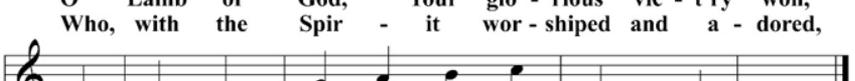
C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 11:1-10 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. 6 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. 10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.”

EPISTLE READING – Matthew 3:1-12 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ” 4 Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think

to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

C 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: TLH #63

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

SERMON – Romans 15:4-13 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. 8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.” 10 And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” 11 And again: “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” 12 And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.” 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May We Find True Unity in the Christ – Child at Christmas and Always!

I. A unity which gives glory to God – Not “according to man,” but “according to Christ”

II. A unity which reaches out to others to the glory of God

OFFERTORY

WS p.16

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

- C**  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 #705

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

– OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #788:1

“Lord, You Love...”

- C**  Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land. Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.

GENERAL PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER

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 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: Who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

C  Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabbaoth, adored; Heaven 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!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

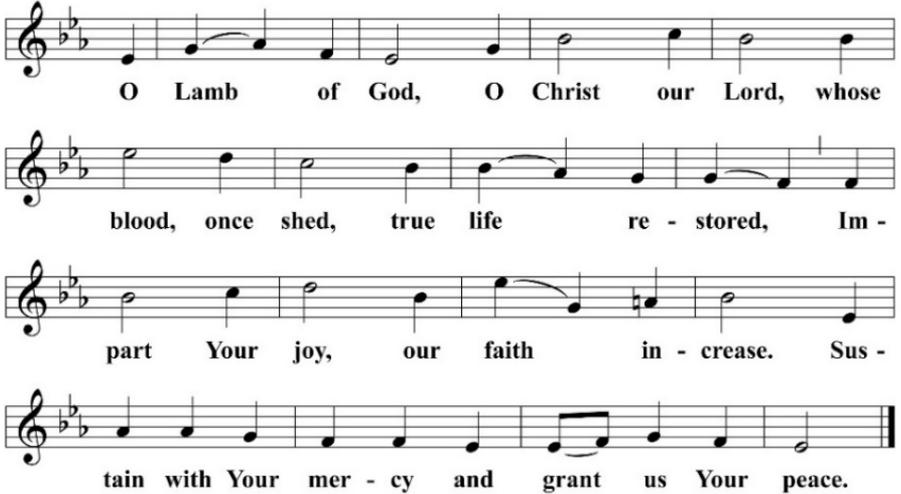
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it

**The Order of Holy
Communion**



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." And the peace of the Lord will be with you always!



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated.

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

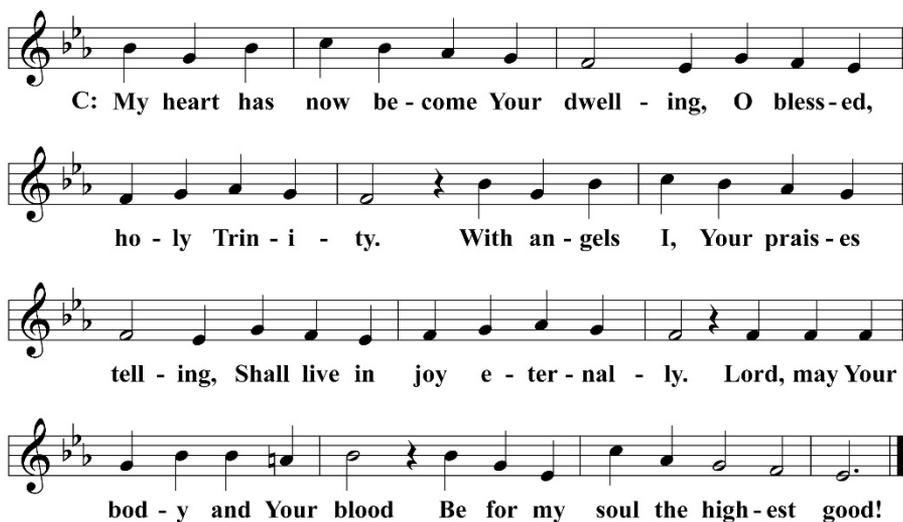
Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

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



C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For
light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es
tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your
bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

THE BENEDICTION:

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** 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.
- G** Amen!

HYMN: TLH #49 "Almighty God, Thy Word Is Cast"

✠ Announcements ✠

- ✠ **Dec. 4** 9:15am Bible Class
10:15am Communion Service
Christmas Cookie fellowship after church with Church Council, Trustee, and Elders' meetings
- ✠ **Dec. 7** Special Wednesday Advent Service at 2:00 pm
- ✠ **Dec. 11** 8am Orlando service
10:15am WH
- ✠ **Dec. 14** Special Wednesday Advent Service at 2:00 pm
- ✠ **Dec, 18** 10:15am WH Service
- ✠ Dec. 24 7:00pm Children's Christmas Eve Service
- ✠ **Dec. 25** 10:15am Christmas Day Service

Pastor Fossum Pastor Fossum will conduct Bible class December 4 at 9:15 am followed by the communion service. After church there will be the Christmas Cookie Fellowship followed by Church Council, Trustees, and Elders' meetings. The following week Orlando service will be at 8:00 am followed by the Winter Haven service at 10:15 am.

Poinsettia There is a poinsettia list in the back of church. If you would like to donate money for a poinsettia "In Memory Only," please sign the list.

Advent Services This Wednesday we will be having our 2nd special Advent service at 2:00 p.m. We will be live-streaming the service as well.

Children's Christmas Eve Service The Children's Christmas Eve Service will be held Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Come listen to the children proclaim the message of Christ's birth as they present the service "His Name is Jesus."

Last Week: WH – 20 Orlando - 11 **Total Offering = \$325.25**

Cleaner (12/10): Naumann | **Acolyte (12/11):** Seth Bernthal

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 5 – Dec. 10, '22

Mon Luke 17:20-21 Jesus' first coming to this earth was in "quietness" in Bethlehem's stable. Also during His earthly ministry, the Pharisees were asking about when "God's kingdom" would come while the King Himself was right there among them. May we ever be ruled by Him!

Tues Luke 17:22-30 To His disciples, who did listen to His Word, Jesus says that He must first suffer before they see His glory. They should not be misled by claims here and there, for when He returns all will see Him wherever they are, as with lightning in the sky. Nor should they get so wrapped up in daily living that they forget His promised coming, as with many in the days of Noah and Lot.

Wed 2 Peter 1:3-11 Our Savior God gives us everything we need for body and soul, for this life and the next. Therefore, as we await the promised coming of the eternal kingdom, let us seek those gifts which come through our faith in the forgiveness of our sins (cp.v9). By the gifts listed (vv5-7), our calling and election as members of His kingdom becomes evident.

Thurs Malachi 4:1-3 The prophet looks forward to the day when the faith of God's followers is vindicated, and God's enemies are cast down. That age will begin and end with Christ's coming. When He came to Bethlehem, it was the Sun of Righteousness rising with the morning rays shooting forth like healing wings.

Fri Malachi 4:4-6 Malachi ends his book of prophecy reminding his people to live as God's people under the Law of Moses, and to look for Elijah the prophet as the New Covenant Era begins. Jesus pointed to John the Baptist as the Elijah who was to come (Mt11:14). Under the New Covenant, fathers and sons would no longer be ashamed of each other, reconciliation would extend to generations.

Sat 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Pursuing money has led some to stray from their trust in God (v10), but Paul urges Timothy (and us) to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness

(v11), looking forward to the second coming of Jesus at the end of this age. Whether we are looking to celebrate Christ's first or second coming, the preparation that matters most is inward, accomplished by His Spirit.

“The Immanuel Sign of Christmas”

(a “Master’s Minute” radio broadcast, Columbia, SC 12/07/15)

Welcome to the Master’s Minute! The Christmas signs of men and merchants are many; but the important signs of Christmas, are not given by men, but by God. Seven hundred years before the first Christmas Isaiah prophesied: “The Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel,” which means “God with us.” (Is. 7:14)

A mother abandon’s her child by placing the hungry newborn in a Christmas Nativity set. The news media calls the child a “Christmas miracle” because he was saved from certain death. But the real “Christmas miracle” took place 2,000 years ago when a young Virgin conceived and bore the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit!

This is the Immanuel sign of Christmas. The Christ-Child was not saved from death; He was born of the Virgin Mary to die as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world!

The Immanuel sign of the miraculous Virgin birth teaches us that the same Jesus who arose from the dead and now rules from heaven is God WITH us TODAY! Just think of all the signs that disturb us in this life, bringing fear and anxiety into our homes.

The Immanuel sign is above all other signs -- it tells the truth which is over all things -- it preaches safety and heavenly joy to everyone who believes in the Virgin-born Son of God, our Savior!