



For the **LORD**  
your God  
is bringing you  
into a **good land...**  
of **wheat** and **barley**,  
of **vines** and **fig trees**  
and **pomegranates**,  
...of **olive trees** and **honey...**  
... eat your fill and

**bless the**  
**LORD**  
your God...

DEUTERONOMY 8:7-10



**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

1449 34<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

[www.WinterHavenLutheran.com](http://www.WinterHavenLutheran.com)

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

## As We Gather

Today, we come together to give thanks to the Lord, who has richly provided for us in both the wilderness and abundance of our lives. Like Israel in the desert, we have faced humbling trials and received daily mercies. God teaches us through these experiences to trust Him as our sustainer and to remember that "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Deuteronomy 8:3). As we worship, may our hearts overflow with gratitude for His faithful provision, His loving discipline, and the eternal hope we have in Christ.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

793 – Sing to the Lord of Harvest

#### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

#### Opening Sentences

Psalms 51:15; 103:2-4; 107:1

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** **And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

**P** Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

**C** **He forgives all your iniquities and crowns you with lovingkindness.**

**P** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

**C** **For His mercy endures forever.**

#### Confession and Absolution

**P** We come before the Lord on this day of thanksgiving, mindful of the countless blessings He has poured out upon us. Yet, we must also acknowledge our sinful hearts, which are so often ungrateful, self-centered, and forgetful of His goodness. Let us confess our sins, trusting in His mercy and grace.

**C** **Almighty God, gracious Father, we confess that we have not always remembered Your blessings with thankful hearts. We have taken Your gifts for granted, trusting in our own strength rather than relying on You. We have failed to give You the honor and glory that belong to You alone. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake, and renew in us hearts filled with gratitude for Your mercy and love.**

**P** The Lord your God is a merciful and gracious God. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. Instead, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear the punishment of our sins and to bring us life and salvation. By His death and resurrection, Jesus has secured forgiveness for all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## ✠ The Service of the Word ✠

### Hymn of Praise

36 – Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God With  
 2 Oh, may this boun - teous God Thro'  
 3 All praise and thanks to God The

heart and hands and voic - es, Who  
 all our life be near us, With  
 Fa - ther now be giv - en, The

won - drous things hath done, In whom His world re -  
 ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to  
 Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est

joic - es; Who from our moth - er's arms Hath  
 cheer us And keep us in His grace And  
 heav - en: The one e - ter - nal God, Whom

blessed us on our way With count - less gifts of  
 guide us when per - plexed And free us from all  
 earth and heav'n a - dore! For thus it was, is

love And still is ours to - day.  
 ills In this world and the next!  
 now, And shall be ev - er - more.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:6-20

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. <sup>9</sup> The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. <sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup> Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. <sup>16</sup> For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Psalm of the Day

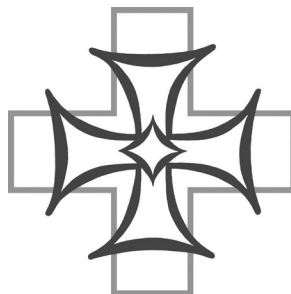
Psalm 67

- P** God be merciful to us and bless us,  
**C** **And cause His face to shine upon us,**  
**P** That Your way may be known on earth,  
**C** **Your salvation among all nations.**  
**P** Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
**C** **Let all the peoples praise You.**  
**P** Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!  
**C** **For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth.**  
**P** Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
**C** **Let all the peoples praise You.**  
**P** Then the earth shall yield her increase;  
**C** **God, our own God, shall bless us.**  
**P** God shall bless us,  
**C** **And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.**

## Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19

<sup>11</sup> Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup> And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup> So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”



## Alleluia

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



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are  
writ - ten that we may believe 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

Explanation to the First Article

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

## Hymn

27 – Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

## Sermon Text

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

<sup>1</sup> “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. <sup>2</sup> And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread

alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup> You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you. <sup>6</sup> “Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.



*Sermon*

## Thanksgiving in the Wilderness

### Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
 Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -  
 va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

### Hymn

572 – Praise to God, Immortal Praise

## Offering

### Offering Hymn

788 (1)

Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv-er Who with o-pen  
heart and hand Bless-es free-ly as a riv-er  
That re-fresh-es all the land. Grant us, then, the  
grace of giv-ing With a spir-it large and true  
That our life and all our liv-ing  
We may con-se-crate to You.

## Prayer of the Church

### The Lord's Prayer

- 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.



## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Hymn

800 – Go My Children, with My Blessing

*“General Verse from Christian Worship, Service of the Word” – Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer. Used by permission. Hymns and liturgical settings under copyright are reprinted with permission under One License #A-741527. All Rights Reserved. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

---

## ✝ Announcements ✝

---

Upcoming Schedule		
November 28	10:15 am	Thanksgiving Worship Service
December 1	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Holiday Potluck
	12:30 pm	Education/Trustees/Church Council
December 4	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
December 11	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship

**Upcoming Meetings:** Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **December 1** – Education/Trustees/Church Council
- **January 5** – Annual Voters’ Meeting
- **February 2** – Elders

**In Our Prayers:** We give thanks to God for His many blessings and continue to lift up the following individuals in our prayers:

- **Dave and Elsie Kleinschmidt** – We rejoice that Dave and Elsie are home after their time in a rehab facility. They are doing well and receiving in-home care. May God continue to bless them with strength and recovery.

- **Patti Meno** – Patti is home after four weeks in Jacksonville recovering from her kidney transplant surgery. She shares that she is feeling about 85-90%! We praise God for His healing hand and pray for her continued improvement.
- **Melissa Proctor** – Melissa’s surgery took place on Monday, and everything seems to have gone well. We thank the Lord for His blessings and pray for her continued healing and recovery in His care.
- **Mike Sheffield** – Mike continues to face significant challenges as he remains paralyzed due to Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Doctors are exploring different methods in hopes of helping him walk again. We pray for strength, healing, and perseverance for Mike, and for wisdom and skill for his medical team.

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)  
 May we keep these brothers and sisters in Christ close in our hearts and prayers this week.

**Sunday Advent Worship Series – A Real Christmas:** A parent says, “I want to give my kids a real Christmas.” What do you think that parent means? Perhaps they are thinking of trimming a freshly cut tree, finding the perfect presents, or spending the holidays with extended family. Perhaps they are thinking about all those things. “Then it will be a real Christmas!”

Certainly, all those are wonderful things. However, none of them are what makes Christmas real. The sad truth is Christmas is the most beloved holiday of so many, yet so few know what Christmas is really about.

If you want a real Christmas, then you need to observe Advent. Advent is Latin for “coming.” In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time He will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

Our worship in the season of Advent follows this path:

- **First Sunday in Advent (December 1)**  
*A Real Christmas Requires Remembering Why Christ Came*  
 Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- **Second Sunday in Advent (December 8)**  
*A Real Christmas Is Rooted in Repentance*  
 Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-6
- **Third Sunday in Advent (December 15)**  
*A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy*  
 Sermon Text: Luke 3:7-18

- **Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 22)**

*A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly*

Sermon Text: Luke 1:39-55

Join us in worship this Advent season to prepare for a truly meaningful celebration of our Savior's birth!

**Advent Midweek Services: "The Christmas Trees of Scripture":** The most widely recognized symbol of the season—the Christmas tree—has deep connections to our faith. While other religions used evergreen branches to symbolize eternal life, it was the Lutherans of 16th-century Germany who began the tradition of bringing evergreen trees indoors during the holidays. They adorned the trees with red ornaments, representing the blood of Christ, and with candles, symbolizing the light of Christ. The tree was often topped with a star or angel, pointing to the story of Jesus' birth. The Christmas tree is a cherished part of our celebration of Christ's coming.

In our Midweek Advent Services, we will focus on some "Christmas trees" found in Scripture. These are not evergreens, nor are they decorated with lights or ornaments, but they point us to the Christ and the salvation He brings. These trees remind us why the birth of Jesus Christ is so worthy of celebration.

Service Schedule and Themes:

- **Midweek One** – December 4 at 2:00 pm  
*Sermon Text: Genesis 3:15*  
*Theme: The Tree of Rebellion*
- **Midweek Two** – December 11 at 2:00 pm  
*Sermon Text: Isaiah 11:1-10*  
*Theme: The Tree of Promise*
- **Midweek Three** – December 18 at 2:00 pm  
*Sermon Text: Revelation 22:1-5*  
*Theme: The Tree of Life*

Join us as we reflect on these trees and the life and hope we have in Christ this Advent season!

**Christmas Candy Bags:** We are preparing, once again, to share the joy of Christmas with the children of our congregation through Christmas Candy Bags. Please consider donating candy for this effort. Donations can be placed on the conference table in Pastor's office.

