

There shall come forth a Rod from  
the stem of Jesse, And a Branch  
shall grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11:1, NKJV



**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

In the midst of life's struggles and brokenness, we often feel like barren stumps—cut off, lifeless, and without hope. Yet, God promises new life where we see only devastation. Today, Isaiah's vision invites us to marvel at the "Tree of Promise," a tender shoot springing forth from what seemed dead. This promise finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who brings hope to the hopeless and peace that transforms our lives. As we gather, let your hearts be uplifted by the assurance that in Christ, God is always at work, bringing life, restoration, and eternal peace.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

62 – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

#### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

#### Confession and Absolution

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

**C** and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

**P** Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** Amen.

## ✠ The Service of the Word ✠

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray...

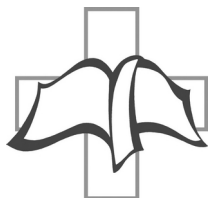
... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Epistle Reading

Romans 15:7-13

<sup>7</sup> Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” <sup>11</sup> And again: “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> 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.



## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8, 18-19

- P** Give the king Your judgments, O God,  
**C** **And Your righteousness to the king's Son.**
- P** He will judge Your people with righteousness,  
**C** **And Your poor with justice.**
- P** The mountains will bring peace to the people,  
**C** **And the little hills, by righteousness.**
- P** He will bring justice to the poor of the people;  
**C** **He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor.**
- P** In His days the righteous shall flourish,  
**C** **And abundance of peace, Until the moon is no more.**
- P** He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,  
**C** **And from the River to the ends of the earth.**
- P** Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel,  
**C** **Who only does wondrous things!**
- P** And blessed be His glorious name forever!  
**C** **And let the whole earth be filled with His glory.**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-17

<sup>1</sup> The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup> Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. <sup>3</sup> Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. <sup>4</sup> Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. <sup>5</sup> Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. <sup>7</sup> Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. <sup>8</sup> Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. <sup>9</sup> Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. <sup>11</sup> Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. <sup>12</sup> And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. <sup>14</sup> Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. <sup>15</sup> Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. <sup>16</sup> And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. <sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

## Alleluia

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



## Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

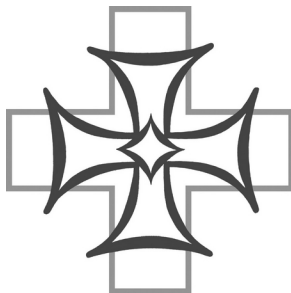
He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

## Hymn

59 (1-3, 5-6) – Hail to the Lord's Anointed



# Sermon Text

Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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; <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. <sup>6</sup> “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. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> “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.”



*Sermon*

## The Tree of Promise

I. Provides Hope for the Hopeless

II. Brings Lasting Peace

### Offertory

Create 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, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -  
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

## General Prayer

### 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

645 (1-2, 4-5) – Behold, a Branch is Growing

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## ✠ Announcements ✠

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### Upcoming Schedule

December 11	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 13	10:30 am	Learning with Littles Playgroup
December 15	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
December 18	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 20	7:00 pm	Children's Christmas Worship Service
December 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Worship Service

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

- **January 5** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 2** – Education/Elders
- **March 2** – Trustees/Church Council

**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 3:1-14



- **Third Sunday in Advent (December 15)**  
*A Real Christmas Restores Hope in a Broken World*  
Sermon Text: Luke 7:18-28
- **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! If you missed any of the previous services, you can watch online at <https://winterhavenlutheran.com/sermons/>.

**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 3:1-15*  
*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! If you missed any of the previous services, you can watch online at <https://winterhavenlutheran.com/sermons/>.

**Learning with Littles:** Our next session is this Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30-11:30 am with a Christmas Fun theme! There will be no session the fourth Friday of December. We will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We've had a great semester with an average of 12 littles at each session and 22 different families that have joined us!

**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.

**CLC Call News:** Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI has returned the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.



