

"Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

Luke 7:19, NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The season of Advent calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, both as the baby born in Bethlehem and as the King who will return in glory. In today's worship, we reflect on how a real Christmas restores hope in a broken world. Through His Word, God points us to the promises fulfilled in Jesus, who came to heal, forgive, and renew. Even in the midst of life's struggles, we are reminded that our Savior's love brings unshakable hope—a light that shines in the darkness and a promise that will never fail.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

55 – Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 146:5-8

- P** Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
C **Whose hope is in the LORD his God,**
P Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them;
C **Who keeps truth forever,**
P Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry.
C **The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.**
P The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
C **The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.**

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

1 Glory be to God in heav - en, Peace to those He
2 On-ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let all His peo - ple
sin a-way, Now with Him in tri-umph seat - ed
Speak His grace, His won - ders tell:
For Your mer - cy, Lord, we pray:
Lord, we praise You for Your glo - ry,
Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
Might - y Fa - ther, heav-en's King; Hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior You are God a - lone In the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion And ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

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.

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more. ¹⁶ In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” ¹⁸ “I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, Who are among you, To whom its reproach is a burden. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, And gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame In every land where they were put to shame. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes,” Says the LORD.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85

- P** LORD, You have been favorable to Your land;
C **You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.**
P You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
C **You have covered all their sin.**
P You have taken away all Your wrath;
C **You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.**
P Restore us, O God of our salvation,
C **And cause Your anger toward us to cease.**
P Will You be angry with us forever?
C **Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**
P Will You not revive us again,
C **That Your people may rejoice in You?**
P Show us Your mercy, LORD,
C **And grant us Your salvation.**
P I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints;
C **But let them not turn back to folly.**
P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
C **That glory may dwell in our land.**
P Mercy and truth have met together;
C **Righteousness and peace have kissed.**

- P** Truth shall spring out of the earth,
- C** **And righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- P** Yes, the LORD will give what is good;
- C** **And our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before Him,
- C** **And shall make His footsteps our pathway.**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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!

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

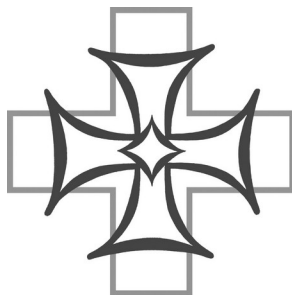
60 – Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

¹⁸ Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. ¹⁹ And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" ²⁰ When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" ²¹ And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. ²² Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. ²³ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." ²⁴ When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' ²⁸ For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."



Sermon

A Real Christmas Restores Hope to a Broken World



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.

Hymn

56 - Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
Thee all praise and glo - ry be. How
life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. Oh,
shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv - est all?
may we ev - er with Thee live, Who giv - est all!

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

74 – One He Came in Blessing

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

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	10:15 am	Christmas Day Worship Service
December 29	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	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

In our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Paulette Galstad, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, and Shirley Rosenberry, that the Lord may comfort and strengthen them. Pray also for Melissa Proctor as she continues recovering from surgery and for Patti Meno, giving thanks for her continued well-being following her kidney transplant in October.

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)

Children's Christmas Service – "Messengers": Join us this coming Friday, December 20, at 7:00 pm, for a special celebration of the Christmas season! Our children will lead us in proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth through Scripture, song, and heartfelt recitations in their program, "Messengers."

Through Scripture readings, songs, and heartfelt recitations, the children will guide us in reflecting on God's messengers—prophets like Isaiah and Micah, John the Baptist, angels from heaven, humble shepherds, and most of all, Jesus Christ Himself, the ultimate Messenger and Message of salvation. The program will also remind us of our calling as Christ's ambassadors to share the Good News.

Experience the wonder of Christmas through timeless hymns such as “O Come, All Ye Faithful” and “Joy to the World” and beloved carols like “Away in a Manger” and “Silent Night.” This service will inspire us all to echo the angels’ proclamation: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Don’t miss this special evening of worship, joy, and praise as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come and be part of this Christ-centered Christmas celebration!

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: We had our final playgroup session of the semester this past Friday, with 8 "littles," 4 "mamas", and even a couple of dads in attendance! Our Bible lesson focused on the birth of Jesus, reminding us of God's incredible love in sending His Son to be our Savior. Families were also invited to attend our Children's Christmas program. Thank you for your continued prayers for this outreach program. Please pray that the participants would be strengthened by hearing God's Word and that their involvement might lead them to explore our church and school further! We're looking forward to starting our new semester on January 10th and continuing to share the love of Jesus with these families!

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 Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN has received the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has returned the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith		December 8, 2024		Attendance: WH – 23; ORL – 12	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>			<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>			<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,535.00	General Budget	\$55.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,423.00	Weekly Need	\$57.69	Weekly Need		
+\$112.00	-Under / +Over	-\$2.69	-Under / +Over		
\$74,124.96	Year to Date Offerings	\$3,260.25	Year to Date Offerings		
\$69,727.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,826.81	Year to Date Need		
+\$4,397.96	Year to Date (+/-)	+\$433.44	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
\$50.00	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund		
\$50.00	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund		
\$100.00	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund		
\$25.00	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)		
\$65.00	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship		
	Outreach		ILC Tour Choir		
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest		



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

December 16 – December 21

Monday: Luke 1:37-45 – Mary humbly accepts the Lord’s working in her life. She visits Elizabeth, who also has a part in the saving promises of God. Elizabeth already knows by the Spirit that Mary is the mother of her Lord.

Tuesday: Luke 1:46-56 – Mary responds to Elizabeth’s greeting by emphasizing the Lord’s greatness and her own lowliness. The Lord brings down rulers and exalts the lowly as He keeps His ancient promises.

Wednesday: 1 Peter 1:3-9 – Through Jesus, God has given us all a new birth into a living hope (verse 3). Looking forward to our inheritance in Him, we rejoice even in the midst of trouble and grief, for salvation is still ours.

Thursday: 1 Peter 1:10-12 – The prophets of old serve us and our salvation, for by the Spirit they proclaim the sufferings and glories that were accomplished in Jesus, whose birth and life we now celebrate.

Friday: Genesis 6:5-8 – The Lord saw the evil in people and the wickedness done by them. Truly they deserved the judgment He pronounced. But still He looked with favor on Noah and found a way to save him . . . and us!

Saturday: Deuteronomy 33:1-15 – Moses bids the people of Israel farewell with words of blessing, and truly every blessing upon land and people is a gift, and God blesses with the best gifts (verses 13-15)!



