

# The Lord God Gives Them Light ...

Revelation 22:5



## **Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

The Advent season points us to Christ, the One who restores what was lost. Long ago, access to the Tree of Life was barred because of sin, leaving humanity under its curse. Yet in His love, God did not leave us hopeless. Through the cross, Christ opened the way to life eternal, offering healing and reconciliation. Today, as we gather, we marvel at the promise of the Tree of Life restored in the new creation—a picture of the abundant, unending life Christ has secured for us. Come, receive His grace, and rejoice in the gift of life through our Savior!

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

70 – Hosanna to the Living Lord

#### Invocation

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

#### Confession and Absolution

- 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 birth. 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.



# ✠ 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.

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup> To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." <sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. <sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." <sup>20</sup> And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup> Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—<sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 27:1-9

**P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?

**C** The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

**P** When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes,

**C** They stumbled and fell.

- P** Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear;
- C** **Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.**
- P** One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek:
- C** **That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.**
- P** For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion;
- C** **In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.**
- P** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me;
- C** **Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.**
- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!
- C** **Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.**
- P** When You said, “Seek My face,”
- C** **My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”**
- P** Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger;
- C** **You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

## Gospel Reading

John 10:7-18

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. <sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. <sup>15</sup> As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

## 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

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.

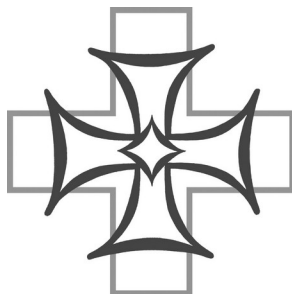
He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

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

65 – When Sinners See Their Lost Condition



<sup>1</sup> And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup> In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. <sup>4</sup> They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

*Sermon***The Tree of Life**

- I. Reveals Sin's Curse
- II. Restores Life Through Christ
- III. Grants Eternal Healing

**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. Restore to me the joy of Your sal -  
 va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

**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

702 (1-4, 7) – As Angels Joyed with One Accord

