

FOR HE WHO
IS MIGHTY
HAS DONE
GREAT
THINGS FOR
ME, AND

HOLY

IS
HIS NAME

LUKE 1:49, NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

As we gather today, we do so in the midst of a season often filled with busyness and exhaustion. Yet, it is in these moments of weariness that God meets us most profoundly. Like Mary, we come humbly, recognizing our need for a Savior. Today, we are reminded that God lifts the lowly, humbling us to prepare our hearts for His grace and exalting us through His mighty deeds. Let us set aside our burdens and rejoice in the God who meets us in our struggles, fills us with His mercy, and calls us His own through Jesus Christ.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

27 – Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved of God: 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.
- C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**
- 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 ✠

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

1 To God on high be glo-ry And peace to all the earth, For
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt-ed, You take all sin a - way; Ex-
God has shown His fa - vor In Je - sus' ho - ly birth! Al -
tend to us Your mer - cy and hear us as we pray. With
might - y God and Fa - ther, Our hum - ble thanks we
God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's
bring; We wor - ship You, we bless You, Lord
throne, You reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, For
God, our heav'n - ly King.
You are Lord a - lone!

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...
... for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”
³ Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. ⁴ And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; ⁵ And this One shall be peace.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 80:1-7

- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock;
C **You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!**
- P** Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, Stir up Your strength,
C **And come and save us!**
- P** Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine,
C **And we shall be saved!**
- P** O LORD God of hosts,
C **How long will You be angry Against the prayer of Your people?**
- P** You have fed them with the bread of tears,
C **given them tears to drink in great measure.**
- P** You have made us a strife to our neighbors,
C **And our enemies laugh among themselves.**
- P** Restore us, O God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine,
C **And we shall be saved!**

Epistle Reading

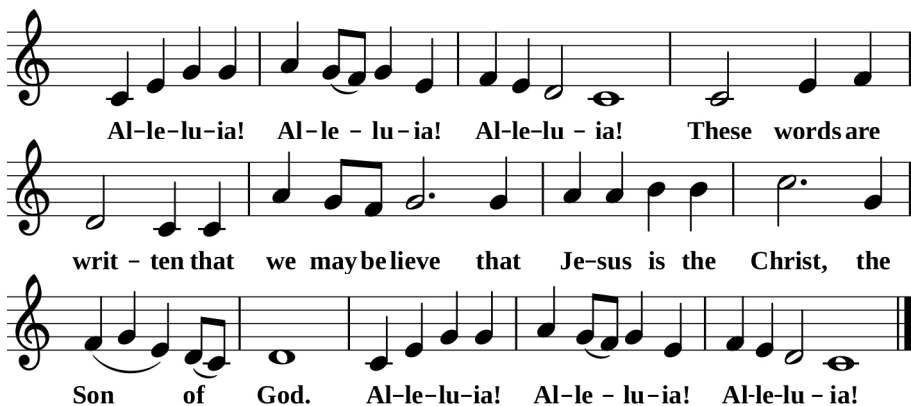
Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. ⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ” ⁸ Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings,

and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

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

275 – My Soul doth Magnify the Lord



³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. ⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”



Sermon

God Lifts Up the Lowly

- I. He Humbles Us to Prepare Us For His Grace
- II. He Exalts Us Through His Mighty Deeds

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.

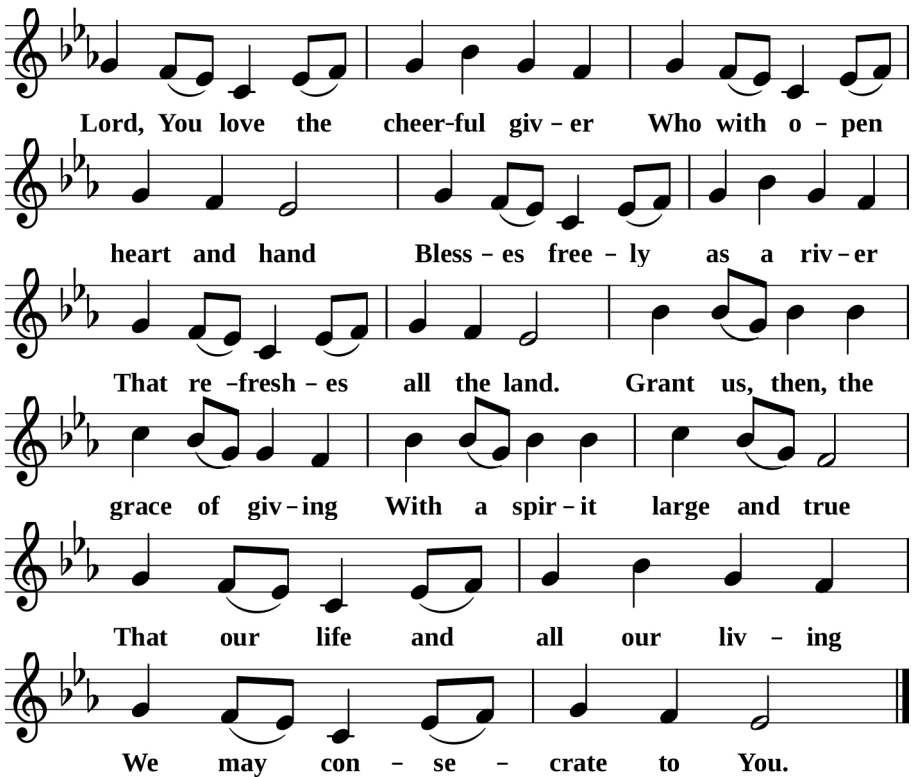
Hymn

96 – Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly

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.

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

91 (1-3, 7-9) – Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

December 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	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
January 5	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Annual Voters' Meeting

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)

Christmas Eve Worship: Join us on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM for a Service of Lessons and Carols as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Scripture readings and beloved carols, we will hear the story of God's faithfulness and the fulfillment of His promise to send a Savior. The theme of the sermon will be: "Good News of Great Joy" based on Luke 2. Come and rejoice in the Good News announced by the angels: "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Let the Word and music of Christmas fill your hearts with joy and peace.

Christmas Day Worship: Join us on Christmas Day at 10:15 am as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Our service will center on the theme, "The Gifts of God's Appearing," based on Titus 3:4-7. Together, we will reflect on the incredible blessings brought to us through the coming of Christ: His kindness, mercy, and the gift of salvation. Come and worship the newborn King, and rejoice in the good news of great joy for all people. Let us celebrate the love of God made manifest in the manger.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday, we will reflect on God's redeeming power as revealed in Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15. Under the theme "Redeemed by the Mighty Hand of God," we will explore how the Lord powerfully delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt and how this foreshadows the greater redemption we have in Christ Jesus.

Join us as we marvel at God's faithfulness, His work of salvation, and the freedom we now enjoy through the sacrifice of our Savior. Let us come together to rejoice in our Redeemer and worship the God who has claimed us as His own.

2025 CLC Mission Helper Trip: The application deadline for the 2025 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by January 13th, 2025. Space is limited for this trip, so please apply soon. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

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 George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith		December 15, 2024	Attendance: WH – 32	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,501.00	General Budget	\$50.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,423.00	Weekly Need	\$57.69	Weekly Need	
+\$78.00	-Under / +Over	-\$7.69	-Under / +Over	
\$75,625.96	Year to Date Offerings	\$3,310.25	Year to Date Offerings	
\$71,150.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,884.50	Year to Date Need	
+\$4,475.96	Year to Date (+/-)	+\$425.75	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund	
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund	
\$50.00	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund	
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)	
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship	
	Outreach		ILC Tour Choir	
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest	



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

December 23 – December 28

Monday: Luke 1:57-66 – Neighbors and relatives rejoice when God's promise is fulfilled. Elizabeth and Zechariah are united in using the name which Gabriel had given, and Zechariah's tongue is loosed to praise God.

Tuesday: Luke 1:67-80 – Zechariah becomes a mouthpiece for the Holy Spirit, extolling God's goodness in bringing the promised salvation to pass. This shows the importance of this child, the fore-runner of the Savior.

Wednesday: Luke 2:1-14 – Christmas Day In the sending of His own Son, God exalts those of low degree. He gives the child to lowly parents in a lowly place. He announces it to unnamed shepherds. But all of this fills our songs with joy today.

Thursday: John 1:1-14 – The Word by whom all things were made became flesh. He showed us His glory as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth, and it is He who brings us life!

Friday: Isaiah 9:2-7 – The difference between darkness and a brilliant light, that is the difference that He makes, whose birth we celebrate these days. He comes to raise the human race from death to life!

Saturday: Isaiah 11:1-5 – From the stump of a tree comes a little shoot, a Branch. But He will be great! He will be righteous! The Spirit of the Lord, of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord will rest on Him. And we will be blessed!



