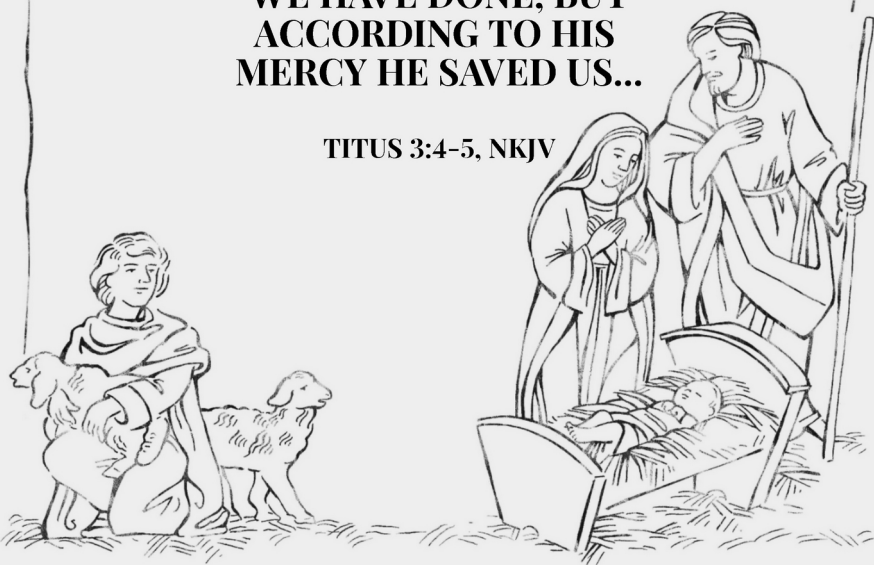


BUT WHEN THE KINDNESS  
AND THE LOVE OF  
**GOD**  
OUR  
**SAVIOR**

TOWARD MAN APPEARED,  
NOT BY WORKS OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH  
WE HAVE DONE, BUT  
ACCORDING TO HIS  
MERCY HE SAVED US...

TITUS 3:4-5, NKJV



**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

Merry Christmas! Today we gather to celebrate the miracle of God's love made visible in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. In the stillness of Bethlehem, the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared—not with pomp or splendor, but in humility and grace. Through this child in the manger, God steps into our world to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. As we worship, may our hearts be filled with the joy of His presence and the peace of His promises. Let us rejoice together in the greatest gift of all—Immanuel, God with us!

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

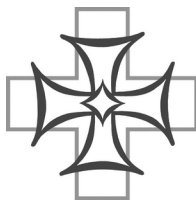
94 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#### 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 Christ, as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us humbly come before God in repentance, confessing our sins. Though we rejoice in the appearing of His grace and love, we must also acknowledge how often we have failed to live as His redeemed people. Let us confess our sins together.
- C** **Merciful Father, You have appeared to us in grace and love through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Yet, we confess that we have not always reflected His light in our lives. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have been selfish and unloving, turning from Your will to follow our own desires. We have not trusted fully in Your mercy and have failed to rejoice in the salvation You freely give. Forgive us, Lord, for the sake of Christ. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may live as Your redeemed and beloved children. Amen.**



**P** Dear friends in Christ, the good news of Christmas is this: “When the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us” (Titus 3:4-5). By His appearing, Jesus Christ has taken your sin upon Himself and won for you forgiveness, life, and salvation. As a called servant of the Word, and by the authority of Christ Himself, I therefore 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

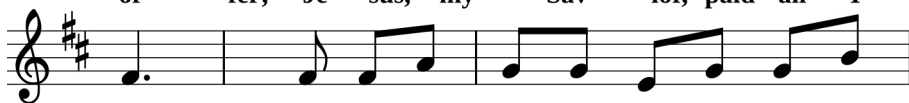
709 – God Loves Me Dearly



1. God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -  
 2. I was in bond - age, sin, death, and  
 3. He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -  
 4. Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did



va - tion; God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven  
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me  
 deem - er; He sent forth Je - sus and set me  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I



me.  
 free. Therefore I'll say a - gain: God loves me  
 free.  
 owed.



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

### 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

Isaiah 62:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones, Lift up a banner for the peoples! <sup>11</sup> Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.'" <sup>12</sup> And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98

- P** Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things;  
**C** His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.  
**P** The LORD has made known His salvation;  
**C** His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.  
**P** He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
**C** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
**P** Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;  
**C** Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.  
**P** Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
**C** With the harp and the sound of a psalm,  
**P** With trumpets and the sound of a horn;  
**C** Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.  
**P** Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,  
**C** The world and those who dwell in it;  
**P** Let the rivers clap their hands;  
**C** Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,  
**P** For He is coming to judge the earth.  
**C** With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

# Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

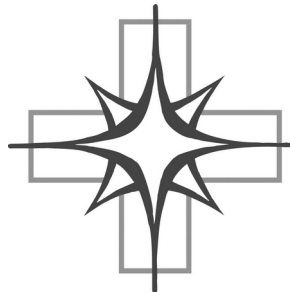
<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup> That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ” <sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

## 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

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

710 – Once in Royal David's City

## Sermon Text

Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.



*Sermon*

## The Gifts of God's Appearing

I. The Gift of Jesus' Birth

II. The Gift of Our Rebirth

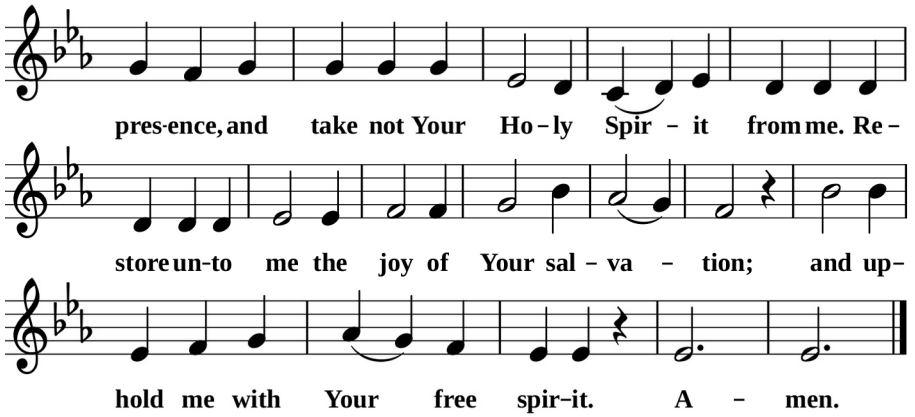
## Offertory



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



presence, 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**

711 – See in Yonder Manger Low

**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 our 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

706 – Go Tell It on the Mountain

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## ✠ Announcements ✠

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### Upcoming Schedule

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

**Looking Forward to 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.