

The Gentiles  
shall come to  
your light,  
And kings to  
the brightness  
of your rising.

Isaiah 60:3, NKJV



**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

As we gather today, we step into a moment of powerful contrast: rejection and rejoicing. In Acts 13, Paul and Barnabas boldly proclaim the Gospel, sparking both opposition and joy. Some rejected the message out of pride, while others rejoiced in the life-changing grace of Christ. This morning, we reflect on how God's Word cannot be silenced, bringing salvation to the unexpected and joy to the hearts of all who believe. May this truth fill our worship with hope and gratitude as we celebrate the unstoppable grace of our Savior.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

359 – Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

#### Invocation

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

#### Opening Sentences

Psalm 98:2; 67:3; 113:3

- P** The LORD has made known His salvation;
- C** **His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.**
- P** Let the peoples praise You, O God;
- C** **Let all the peoples praise You.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its going down
- C** **The LORD's name is to be praised.**

#### Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in Christ, as we gather to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, who came to bring salvation to all people. Yet too often, we have chosen to walk in the darkness of sin rather than in the light of His grace. Let us come before God in humble repentance, confessing our sins and seeking His mercy.



**P** Heavenly Father,

**C** We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Instead of proclaiming Your light to the world, we have hidden it with our pride, selfishness, and fear. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again to bring salvation to all. Illuminate our hearts with Your truth, and lead us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, and He has shone His light upon you, dispelling the darkness of sin and death. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I 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 ✠

### Introit

Psalm 45:6-8a

**P** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

**C** You love righteousness and hate wickedness;

**P** Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

**C** All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son

**C** and to the Holy Spirit;

**P** as it was in the beginning,

**C** is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

# Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of  
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, You  
A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord, At



heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor - ship  
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of  
God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high: Who, with the



You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al -  
God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, Re - ceive our  
Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored, With all the



might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

## 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

1 Kings 10:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. <sup>2</sup> She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices,

very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. <sup>3</sup> So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. <sup>4</sup> And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, <sup>5</sup> the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. <sup>6</sup> Then she said to the king: “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. <sup>7</sup> However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. <sup>8</sup> Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup> Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72:1-11

- 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; He will save the children of the needy,
- C** **And will break in pieces the oppressor.**
- P** They shall fear You As long as the sun and moon endure,
- C** **Throughout all generations.**
- P** He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing,
- C** **Like showers that water the earth.**
- 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** Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him,
- C** **And His enemies will lick the dust.**
- P** The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents;
- C** **The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts.**
- P** Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him;
- C** **All nations shall serve Him.**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

## 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

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead And the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Hymn

126 – Arise and Shine in Splendor

## Sermon Text

Acts 13:44-52

<sup>44</sup> On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. <sup>45</sup> But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

<sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ” <sup>48</sup> Now

when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. <sup>49</sup> And the

word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city,

raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. <sup>51</sup> But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy

Spirit.



## Good News to the Gentiles

I. A Story of Rejection

II. A Story of Rejoicing

### 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

129 – Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing

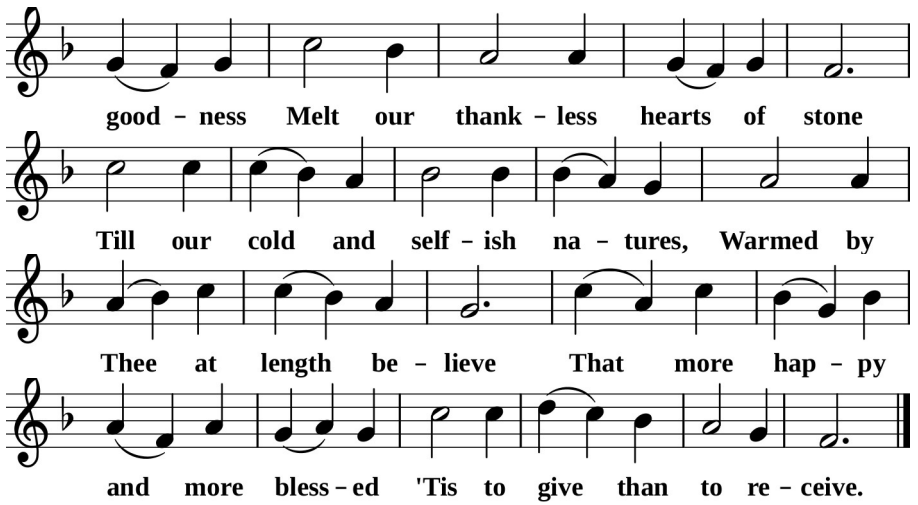
### Offering

### Offering Hymn

442 (2)

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,  
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy





good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

## 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.

## ✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

### Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- P** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...  
...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and  
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho -  
san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly  
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Words of Institution

### Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!
- C** Amen.

## Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose  
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -  
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -



tain with Your mer-cy and grant us Your peace.

### Distribution

*Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!*

### O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis



O Lord, now let Your ser- vant De- part in heav'n-ly  
All glo- ry to the Fa- ther, All glo- ry to the



peace, For I have seen the glo- ry Of Your re- deem- ing  
Son, All glo- ry to the Spir- it, For- ev- er Three- in-



grace: A light to lead the Gen- tiles Un- to Your ho-ly  
One; For as in the be- gin- ning, Is now, shall ev-er



hill, The glo- ry of Your peo- ple, Your  
be, God's tri- une name re- sound- ing Through



cho- sen Is- ra- el.  
all e- ter- ni- ty.

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

## Thanksgiving

My heart has now be come Your dwell ing, O bless ed ho-ly Trin-i-  
ty. With an-gels I, Your prais-es tell - ing, Shall live in  
joy e - ter-nal - ly. Lord, may Your bod - y and Your  
blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

## 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

50 – Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

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## ✝ Announcements ✝

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### Upcoming Schedule

January 5	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Annual Voters' Meeting
January 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
January 19	9:15 am	Sunday School/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, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield that the Lord may comfort and strengthen them.

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

**Looking Forward to Next Sunday:** Next Sunday, we'll reflect on the baptism of Jesus from Luke 3:15-22 under the theme, *The Savior Who Stands With Us*. Imagine the crowds by the Jordan, eagerly awaiting the Messiah, only to see Jesus, the sinless Son of God, step into the water with sinners. Why would He do this? Because He came to identify with us in every way, even taking on our sin to redeem us. Come and marvel at the Savior who stands with us, not above us, bringing hope, forgiveness, and new life. Don't miss this chance to rejoice in His amazing grace!

**Ministry by Mail:** Looking to gather more around God's Word this new year? Check out Ministry by Mail! Ministry by Mail is a weekly publication of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. Each edition includes a sermon, Bible readings, hymn suggestions, and a prayer. You can access the weekly sermon and an archive of sermons online at [www.lutheransermos.org](http://www.lutheransermos.org) or on Facebook. Sermons are also available to listen to on Spotify through CLC's Ministry by Mail. To receive the weekly sermons via email, contact the editor at [editor@lutheransermos.org](mailto:editor@lutheransermos.org).

**Church Work Day:** Join us for a church work day on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:00 am. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together in service and fellowship as we care for the Lord's house. All are welcome! Let's work together to be good stewards of the blessings God has entrusted to us. We hope to see you there!

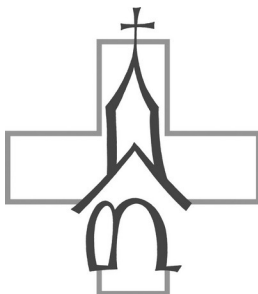
**National Women's Retreat 2025: "Press Pause":** Ladies, mark your calendars! You are invited to a special virtual event hosted by CLC Ladies:

- **Date:** Saturday, January 25, 2025
- **Time:** 12:00 PM Eastern Time
- **Location:** Online via Zoom
- **Theme:** Press Pause: Grace-full Stewardship
- **Key Verse:** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

Take this opportunity to pause and reflect on how God's grace equips us to be stewards of His gifts in our daily lives. Registration is free but required: Visit <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause25> to sign up and secure your spot. We look forward to seeing you there as we grow together in God's Word and grace!

**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 returned the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has returned the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.



## ✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

January 6 – January 11

**Monday: Matthew 3:13-17** – The Spirit of God and the voice of the Father reveal that this is the beloved Son, who came to take our place as a human being and to fulfill all righteousness (verse 15).

**Tuesday: Romans 3:23-31** – Through trusting the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (verse 24), we are declared righteous before God even though we have not kept the law (verse 28), because He kept it in our place.

**Wednesday: Genesis 12:1-4** – The LORD makes precious promises to Abram, including that in him all families of the earth will be blessed (verse 3). Abram believes and follows the LORD's word toward a new land and future.

**Thursday: Isaiah 2:1-5** – Isaiah looks forward to the glory of the mountain of the LORD's house, which will benefit all nations and many peoples. He looks forward to peace on earth, good will toward mankind.

**Friday: Matthew 16:1-12** – The Pharisees and Sadducees would brush aside all the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus, and demand another sign. To them only the sign of Jonah, who came back from a watery grave, will be given.

**Saturday: Romans 7:7-25** – Because of inborn sin, even hearing God's Law becomes an occasion for sinful rebellion, but there is One to rescue us from this sin living in us: Jesus Christ our Lord (verse 25)!



