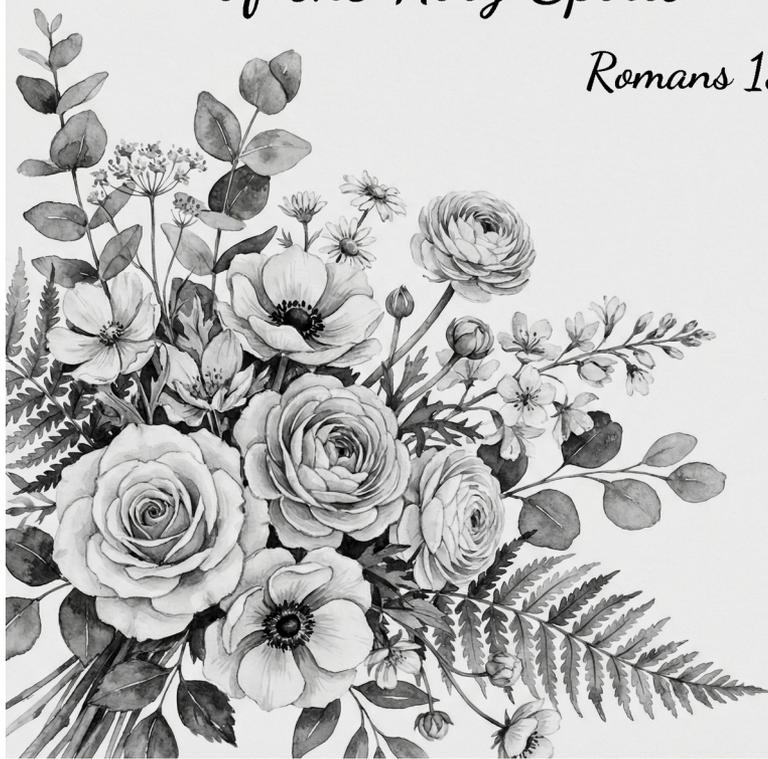


*Now may the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace in
believing, that you may
abound in hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

In a world overflowing with empty promises and fragile optimism, where do we find a hope that actually endures? True hope is not merely a wish for a better outcome; it is a certainty anchored in something stronger than ourselves. On this Second Sunday in Advent, the Apostle Paul directs our eyes to the only source of stability: the enduring, written Word of God. As we gather today, we leave behind the uncertain, shifting sands of human emotion to stand upon the solid rock of Scripture. We come to be filled by the "God of hope," anticipating a message not of fleeting potential, but of divine promise. Prepare your hearts to receive a hope that does not leak, fail, or fade—a hope that truly holds water.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

20 – God of Mercy, God of Grace

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 130:5; 71:5, Romans 15:13

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C **And in His word I do hope.**

P For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;

C **You are my trust from my youth.**

P Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

C **that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, Paul teaches that Christ became a servant to confirm God's promises. Yet we must examine our hearts. We often place hope in things that cannot hold water—our own strength and worldly stability—rather than in the Root of Jesse. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, imploring forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ.

P O God of patience and comfort,

C We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have not lived in harmony with one another. We have failed to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. We have allowed despair to cloud our hearts, and we have not abounded in the hope that comes by the power of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that with one mind and one mouth we may glorify You, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

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.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of text, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.


Gloria Patri

GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

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.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev - er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin - ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The musical notation consists of four staves in G major. The first staff is the beginning of the melody. The second and third staves contain the main body of the melody with lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and a final whole note.

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 11:1-10

¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; ⁴ But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. ⁶ “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72:1-7

- 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;
- C** **He will save the children of the needy, 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.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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

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

62 – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Sermon Text

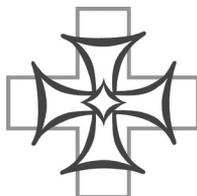
Romans 15:4-13

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹ and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.” ¹⁰ And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” ¹¹ And again: “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” ¹² And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.” ¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Sermon

Hope that Holds Water



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.

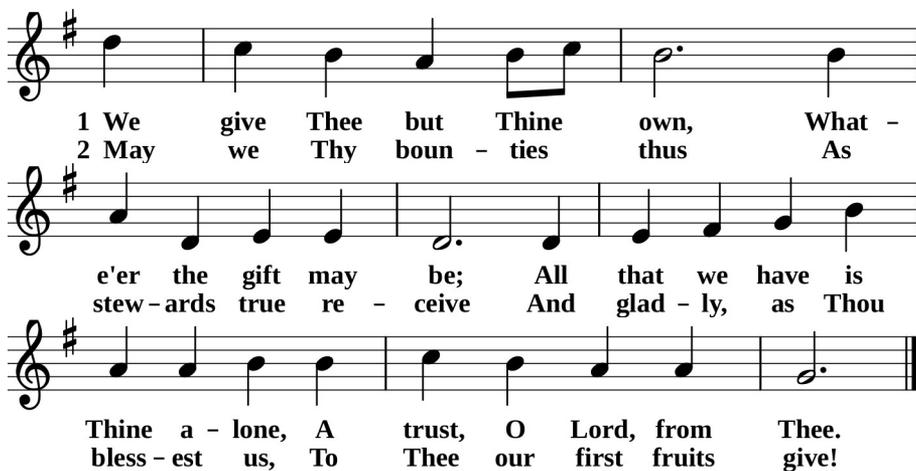
Hymn

74 - One He Came in Blessing

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

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.**

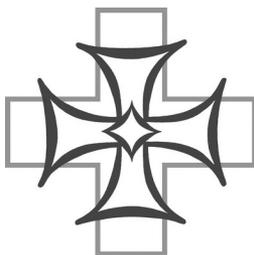
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, 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 laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -
oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, the

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world,
 have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
 take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
 A - - men.

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

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your peo ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry
be to the Father 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.

Thanksgiving

- P** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
- C** For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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

370 – My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

December 7	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Holiday Potluck Meal
	12:30 pm	Church Council/Board of Trustees Meeting
December 10	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 12	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
December 14	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
December 17	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 19	7:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Worship Service
December 21	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **December 7** – Trustees/Church Council
- **January 4** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 1** – Education/Elders

 **Staff Christmas Gifts:** We are collecting money for our pastor and teachers for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please provide money to Ed Morris or John Kuehne by December 7.

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Holiday Meal – Everyone is warmly invited to our annual Holiday Potluck, scheduled for Sunday, December 7, immediately following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share as we join together for food and fellowship. We look forward to this blessed time with our church family.

Christmas Candy Bags: We are preparing, once again, to share the joy of Christmas with the children of our congregation and school through Christmas Candy Bags. Please consider donating candy for this effort. Donations can be placed on the conference table in Pastor's office.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: "How long?" It is the cry of the weary heart. In a season often consumed by frantic rushing, St. James invites us to slow down and look at the soil. "See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth" (James 5:7). Next Sunday, we address the theme: "Coming Soon?" As we study James 5:7–11, we will see that Christian patience is not idle waiting, but a steadfast trust. The Judge stands at the door, yet He is "very compassionate and merciful." Join us as we learn to "establish our hearts" in the certainty of His return.

Midweek Advent Services – As the world fills with noise and hurried preparations, we are called to a different kind of preparation: to make our hearts ready for the coming of the King.

This year's sermon series, "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room," is a call to move away from worldly self-sufficiency and toward true, repentant faith. Through God's Word, we will ask the Holy Spirit to open our "closed doors," smooth our "rough places," and give us the humble, receptive heart of a servant.

Service Schedule & Themes:

- **December 10 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "The Heart's Rough Places"
 - **Text:** Isaiah 40:1-11

- **December 17 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "Behold, the Servant's Heart"
 - **Text:** Luke 1:26-38

Make this special time of worship a part of your Advent preparation as we ready ourselves to receive our Savior in Word and Sacrament.

For those unable to join us at 2:00 PM, you can watch online. Visit <https://winterhavenlutheran.com/sermons/>

Southeastern Women's Retreat: Registration is now open for the Southeastern Women's Retreat, to be held in Sherrills Ford, NC, February 13-15, 2026. The theme this year is "Sisters in Christ". To register, please head over to women'sretreat.clclutheran.net, click on SOUTHEAST, and scroll down to the link for the online form. If you would like to register over email or you have any questions, reach out to southeasternwomensretreat@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

National Women's Retreat Coming in January!: Before your 2026 calendar begins to fill up, we want you to mark your calendars and get ready to Press Pause with women across the country!

- **What:** Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat 2026
- **When:** Saturday, January 31, 2026 // 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **How:** Join us virtually via Zoom
- **Cost:** Free event – all are welcome!
- **Register now:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>

Fruits of Faith		November 30, 2025		Attendance: WH – 23	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$1,086.00	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
-\$414.00	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over		
\$72,123.01	Year to Date Offerings	\$2,543.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$72,000.00	Year to Date Need	\$3,230.88	Year to Date Need		
+\$123.01	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$687.88	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund		
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund		
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund		
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)		
	Benevolence Fund		CLC Kinship		
	Learning with Littles		ILC Tour Choir		
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest		

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

December 08 – December 13, 2025

Monday - *Luke 21:25-36*

Jesus points to the fear and fainting of the unbelieving world when He comes in power and glory. But for His own it is a time of blessing (verse 28) to look forward to and to stay ready for!

Tuesday - *Romans 15:4-13*

The purpose of prophecy was to give us hope, that in that hope we may accept one another as Christ also accepted us. The God of hope gives joy and peace to both Jew and Gentile believers.

Wednesday - *Micah 4:1-7*

The prophet Micah looks forward to the time when the whole world looks to the mountain of the House of the Lord, whose word goes forth from Zion with peace and healing for all mankind.

Thursday - *Psalms 91*

The Almighty promises protection to all who live in His presence. They will fear no terror by night or day, for He pledges to rescue those who find shelter in Him. Yes, LORD, You are my refuge (verses 2, 9)!

Friday - *Psalms 42:1-5*

As a hunted deer pants for cool relief, so the believer longs for God. People may say, "Where is your God?" But the beleaguered believer finds his hope in God and salvation in His presence.

Saturday - *Psalms 42:6-11*

When the evils of this world seem to have caught up to and overcome the believer, he remembers the LORD's mercy by day and at night. He knows that he will again praise Him for his salvation.