

Therefore the Lord
Himself will give
you a sign:
Behold, the virgin
shall conceive and
bear a Son, and
shall call His name
Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Seven centuries before the skies over Bethlehem filled with song, the Lord gave King Ahaz a sign: “The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Tonight, we do not gather simply to retell a story, but to witness the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan. The Infinite has become an Infant; the Creator has wrapped Himself in our dust. Why would the Almighty bridge the gap between heaven and earth? As we prepare our hearts for worship, we ponder the mystery of the Incarnation. We leave behind our isolation to embrace the miracle of Immanuel—the profound and saving “with-ness” of our God.

✠ Service of Lessons and Carols ✠

Hymn

708 – Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels.

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Born of a virgin, to earth He comes,
Very God, Begotten, not created. [Refrain]

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
In the highest. [Refrain]

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n.
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing. [Refrain]

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** Dear friends in Christ, tonight heaven touches earth. The Infinite One becomes an infant; the Mighty God becomes a child. We are gathered to hear the tidings of great joy, that God is with us. Yet, as we stand in the presence of the Holy One, we are reminded of our own unworthiness. We have often lived as if God were absent, turning to our own ways and ignoring His Word. Therefore, let us bow before our Maker, confessing our sins and seeking His peace, that we may welcome the Christ Child with pure hearts.
- C** Almighty God, we confess that we are separated from You by our sin. We have walked in darkness rather than in Your light. We have not trusted in Your presence, nor have we reflected Your love to others. We are sorry for our sins and repent of them. Have mercy on us, O God. For the sake of the birth, life, innocent death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us our trespasses and draw us back to Yourself.
- P** "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." By the authority of this same Lord Jesus, and according to His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

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.

First Reading

Genesis 3:8-15

Even after the Fall, God seeks us out.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” ¹² Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Hymn

62 (1, 4) – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home:
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

God is with us as the Great Light and the Prince of Peace.

² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. ⁵ For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be

used for burning and fuel of fire. ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Hymn

106 – The People That in Darkness Sat

1. The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been.
2. To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gathering nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home.
3. For Thou their burden dost remove And break the tyrant's rod
As in the day when Midian fell Before the sword of God.
4. To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given,
And on His shoulder ever rests All power in earth and heaven.
5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored.
6. His righteous government and power Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end.
7. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone, Who with the
Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one.

Third Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

God chooses a specific place to be with His people.

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.

Hymn

647 (1-2, 4) – O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy darkness shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King, And peace to men on earth.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Fourth Reading

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The Lord is with Mary, and the Spirit overshadows her.

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Hymn

95 – Savior of the Nations, Come

1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh-- Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the Virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned, Still to be in heaven enthroned.

4. From the Father forth He came And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell-- High the song of triumph swell!

5. Thou, the Father's only Son, Hast o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be; When shall we its glories see?

6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine, Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light; Ever be our faith thus bright.

7. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally. Amen.

Fifth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

God is with us in human flesh, wrapped in swaddling cloths.

¹ And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn

85 (1, 8, 13, 15) – From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

1. "From heaven above to earth I come To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

8. Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share my misery; What thanks shall I return to Thee?

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

15. Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

God is with the lowly and the outcasts.

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" ¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Hymn

94 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim. "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
3. Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
4. Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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.

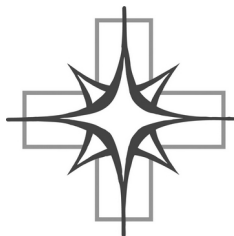
Hymn

98 (1-3) – Of the Father's Love Begotten

1. Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3. O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.



Sermon Text

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” ¹³ Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.



Sermon

The “With-ness” of God

Hymn

76 (1-2, 4) – A Great and Mighty Wonder

1. A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men!"

2. The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men!"

4. Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men!"

Offering

General Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

☐ 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

646 – Silent Night! Holy Night!

1 Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

3 Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



IMMANUEL

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule

December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
December 25	10:15 am	Christmas Day Worship
December 28	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
January 4	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Annual Voters' Meeting

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

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

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.

Looking Forward to Christmas Day: For four hundred years, the heavens were silent. No prophet spoke; no fresh revelation came. The world waited in darkness. Then, the silence was shattered not by a shout, but by a baby's cry. On Christmas Day, we stand in awe before the mystery of the Incarnation. Our text, John 1:1-14, reveals the greatest truth ever told: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." God did not merely send a message; He became the message. Come and behold His glory, "the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Let us gather to worship the God who breaks the silence to speak life into our souls.

Looking Forward to Sunday: The manger scene is peaceful, but the days following Christ's birth were perilous. Next Sunday, we turn to Matthew 2:13-23 under the theme: "The 'Real' Christmas Story." We move from the quiet stable to the desperate flight into Egypt. This is no sentimental fable; it is a history of tyrant kings, weeping mothers, and fulfilled prophecy. We will see that the Prince of Peace entered a world at war with God. Yet, even as Herod rages, the Father protects the Son, ensuring the work of redemption continues. Join us to see how God preserves our Savior to secure our salvation.

