



## JOHN 1:14

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*



### **Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

1449 34<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

[www.WinterHavenLutheran.com](http://www.WinterHavenLutheran.com)

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

## 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

710 – Once in Royal David's City

#### 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 the Lord, we gather on this Christmas Day to rejoice that God has not remained silent in our sin and suffering. Though all things were made through the Word, our rebellion invited chaos into creation. We have ignored God's testimony, filling our lives with words of anger and vanity that drown out the Creator's voice. Let us therefore draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Almighty God, Creator of all things,

**C** **We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have ignored Your voice and spoken words that dishonor You. We have loved darkness rather than light. We deserve only Your silence and judgment. Have mercy on us, Father. For the sake of the Word made flesh, forgive us and renew a right spirit within us, that we may declare Your praise.**

**P** Upon your confession, as a called servant of the Word, I announce God's grace to all. God has broken the silence of condemnation with His pardon. He saved us, not by our works, but according to His mercy. As you believe, so let it be. 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 ✠

## Hymn of Praise

94 (1-2) – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored Christ, the ev - er -  
new-born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold Him come,  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled! Joy - ful, all ye  
Off-spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
God head see, Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim,  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell;  
"Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald  
Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el! Hark! the her - ald  
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"  
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

## 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.

## Psalms of the Day

Psalms 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.

## Epistle Reading

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.

## Alleluia

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



## 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

712 – What Child Is This

## Sermon Text

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.



*Sermon*

## The God Who Breaks the Silence

### 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

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 glo - ry to be. How  
life, our gifts, and 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

87 – Joy to the World, the Lord is Come

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## ✝ Announcements ✝

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### Upcoming Schedule

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 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.