

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

212-289-8128 www.immanuelnyc.org www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

Christmas Eve



Christmas Window at Wartburg Chapel, Mount Vernon, NY

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus

6:30 PM Thursday Evening, December 24, 2020

Lutheran Book of Worship

Christmas Music

Sung by the Immanuel Choir

ANTHEM

Gaudete! Christus est natus From Piae Cantiones (1582) Ryland Angel, countertenor soloist

Gaudete! Christus est natus Ex Maria vergine, gaudete!

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born Of the Virgin Mary — rejoice!

Tempus adest gratiae Hoc quod optabamus. Carmina laetitiae Devote reddamus. Gaudete... The time of grace has come—
This that we have desired,
Verses of joy
Let us devoutly return.
Rejoice...

Deus homo factus est Natura mirante, Mundus renovatus est A Christo regnante. Gaudete... God has become man,
To the wonderment of Nature,
The world has been renewed
By the reigning Christ.
Rejoice...

Ezechielis porta Clausa pertransitur, Unde lux est orta Salus invenitur. Gaudete... The closed gate of Ezekiel Is passed through, Whence the light is born, Salvation is found. Rejoice...

Ergo nostra contio Psallat iam in lustro; Benedicat Domino: Salus Regi nostro. Gaudete... Therefore let our gathering Now sing in brightness Let it give praise to the Lord: Greeting to our King. Rejoice...

Motomi Tanaka, soprano soloist

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici, Dévotes gens, rendons à Dieu merci, Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet, Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Quand je m'éveillai et eus assez dormi, ouvris les yeux, vis un arbre fleuri dont il sortait un bouton vermeillet. Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

D'un oiselet bientôt le chant ouïs, qui aux pasteurs disait: "Partez d'ici, en Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet." Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici. A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here. Faithful people, shout out our thanks to God, sing Noel for the new-born king. A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here.

When I awoke, having slept long enough I opened my eyes and saw a flowering tree where I saw a marvelous flower bud.

A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here.

Soon we heard a song from a little bird, who said to the shepherds: "Go from here, in Bethlehem you will find the little Lamb." A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here.

Flute Sonata in B minor, BWV 1030: Largo e dolce Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Rosa Maria Lazon Egusquiza, flute

Announcement of Our Lord's Birth

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P I bring you good news of great joy: A Saviour has been born to us. Alleluia!
- Unto us a child is born, a son is given. Alleluia!
- P Hear the words of St. Luke:

When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

- P He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
- **We worship and adore him. Alleluia!**

BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

- P Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord.
- **Solution** Now he is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger. (Baby Jesus is placed in the manger)

- P From eternity to eternity you are God,
- **And now we see you as a new-born child.**
- P Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crèche, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.
- P Bless this Christmas crèche in which the wonders of that sacred birth are represented, that all those who behold it shall ponder and adore the mystery of his holy Incarnation and may be filled with your heavenly blessing unto life eternal, through the same Christ our Lord who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end.
- C Amen.
- Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Child of Bethlehem, for love of all made man: create in us love so pure and perfect that whatever our heart loves may be according to your will, in your name, and for your sake.
- C Amen.
- P Good Jesus, who emptied yourself of your eternal glory and became a little child for love of us: empty us wholly of ourselves, and make us little children, that we may love you wholly, as you love us infinitely.
- @ Amen.

HYMN LBW 45

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Liturgy of the Word

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE LBW 71 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **G** Amen.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7, RSV

Bible scholars say that this poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child. But the Church believes that it is a hope that goes beyond deliverance from Assyria. It is hope for the whole world: ...and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

³Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,

to 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."

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96, read responsively, by whole verse

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes,

when he comes to judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who

gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

A The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPELLuke 2:1-20 (King James Version)

Before the Gospel:

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the Second Chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

and it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And 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, good will toward men."

were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it

wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

After the Gospel:

- P The Gospel of the Lord!
- Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN, LBW 41

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

SERMON

HYMN, ELW 294

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

NICENE CREED (In olden days, it was customary for people to bow at the confession of the Holy Incarnation: "...and was made man." This seems especially suitable for the great Christmas liturgies. If you would like to do so, the place is marked with italics in this text:)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became *incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man*. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

INTERCESSIONS

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

GREETING OF PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "The Peace of the Lord be with you."

Sit

THE OFFERING

Donate now: **Donate**

Here are some other options for giving: Ways to Give

Offertory Anthem

A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Of one who is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella, [Like a star of the sea]
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella: [Both mother and maiden]
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia, [so pure]
That I may come to thee.
Maria! [Mary]
All this world was forlorn,
Eva peccatrice, [because of Eve, a sinner]
Till our Lord was yborn,
De te genetrice. [through you, his mother]
With ave it went away,
Darkest night, and comes the day

Lady, flower of everything,
Rosa sine spina, [Rose without thorn]
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king,
Gratia divina: [by divine grace]
Of all thou bearest the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise

Salutis; [of salvation]

Virtutis. [of virtue]

The well springeth out of thee.

Electa: [chosen]
Maid mild, mother
es effecta. [you are made]

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- Merciful Father,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us -- our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **Q** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Preface for Christmas

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer II

P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-

begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

- P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
- Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

H If you are home during this pandemic, worshiping online with us, here is a possible "Prayer for Spiritual Communion" lifted up in a recent *Forum Letter* (May 2020). Forum Letter is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

ANTHEM

O magnum mysterium Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger!
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

ANTHEM

Wonderful Peace

Gustav Nordquist (1886-1946)

Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given.
Hushed are the angels, so still is the night; Then in the East shone a heavenly light.
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King.
Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace.
Men of good will receive Him.
Holiest of nights, O most wond'rous of days;
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.

Join in the chorus, His praises sing! Glory to God, to the newly born King. Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given.

When all have received the Blessed Sacrament, the people stand for the post-communion blessing:

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- A Let us pray. God our Father, we ask you to give us a new birth as we celebrate the beginning of your Son's life on earth. Strengthen us in spirit through this holy sacrament and let us share his life completely by living as he has taught; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

HYMN LBW 65

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Dismissal

SOLEMN BLESSING

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, who of old on this day appeared in the humility of a manger to the shepherds, give you peace.

He himself, who for us mercifully took upon himself our human infancy, protect and defend you.

Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN, LBW 39

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Verbum caro factum est

Heinrich Scheidemann (c.1595-1663)

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"

Service Notes

Music Director and Organist	Dr. Gwendolyr	n Toth	
The Immanuel Choir:			
Sopranos: Andrea Cortes-Comerer, Carol Fryer, Motomi T	Tanaka Tanaka		
Altos: Juli Borst, Amy Bruce, Virginia Kaycoff, Paul Lee, Sara Ruderman,			
Agus Sutikno, Rosa Maria Lazon			
Tenors: Ryland Angel, Michael Celentano, Bruce Rickenbacher			
Basses: Peter Becker, Karl Peterson, Robb Moss			
Music and service production/editing	Dongsol	k Shin	
Assisting Minister and Preacher	ev. Gregory P.	Fryer	
Presiding MinisterR	ev. Carol E. A.	Fryer	

Intercessions

NEW TO PRAYER LIST: The Romano Family (John, Jeanne, Emma and Lucy), Marion Molno, Emma Kaefer, Bruce Harbour (Robin's father), Peter Davie (godfather of Thomas Wicks), Bennett Harris (colleague of Pastors Fryer), Robert Mallery (son-in-law of David Kiehl's sister), Wolfgang Hahn, Yoleidy Perez (Tamares's brother), Obdulia Mundo (friend of Maggie Schreiber), Charlie Beckwith (friend of Thomas Wicks), Olga Beloded (John Imhof's wife), Mary Ann Grant (Deirdre's mother)

Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer and the Staff of Immanuel Lutheran Church wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas and God's continuing strength, grace, and peace in the new year! We extend our warm thanks for your many Christmas cards, good wishes and kindnesses to us.

Online Giving to Immanuel

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

Nowadays we have the option of giving online. Here is our QR code.



I find that if I simply point the camera on my iPhone to this code, a link comes up leading directly to our Immanuel online giving form. It is pretty easy.

Looking Ahead

Christmas Morning

11 AM, tomorrow, December 25, 2020

The traditional Gospel Lesson is John 1, with its magnificent doctrine of the holy incarnation of our God. Pastor Carol preaches for us.

Name of Jesus

11 AM, Friday, January 1, 2021

What a good way to start the New Year: bringing to mind the blessed Name given to us in Baptism -- Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. That good Name is given us both for our comfort and our encouragement in holiness of life. This year's liturgy will be given via Zoom from the parsonage.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street * New York, NY 10128 * (212) 289-8128 www.immanuelnyc.org / www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

HOLY COMMUNION	11 AM Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION	6:30 PM Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Via Zoom these days
MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY	6:30 PM Mondays, via Zoom these days
INTERIM OFFICE MANAGER	Melissa Phillips
SEXTON	Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Dr. Gwendolyn Toth
PASTOR	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
SENIOR PASTOR	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

e extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that you will return. If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Carol Fryer. If you are interested in membership here at Immanuel, please contact the church office for an appointment with Pastor Carol. Or you can email her at ceafryer@gmail.com.

- + HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Church's faith, who confess it with us (as in the Creeds), and who may in good conscience receive the Sacrament in keeping with the understanding with which it is celebrated here: namely, that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and are distributed to and received by all who commune.
- + HOLY BAPTISM is celebrated and MARRIAGES solemnized only after consultation with the pastor well in advance. If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, homebound, or otherwise in need of the ministry of the Church, let us know. Call the church office during the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- → We mean for PRIVATE CONFESSION to be available as often as you need. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gpfryer@gmail.com or ceafryer@gmail.com.
- + LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL FOR THE SICK is available. Again, simply contact Pastor Fryer.
- + FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: There is a long line of Christians, both rich and poor, who have disciplined themselves to budget a portion of their income, put it into an offering envelope first thing, and give it to the church. Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer live by that tradition and commend it to you. Online giving is also available through our website, or by following this QR code with your phone camera:

