

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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[www.immanuelnyc.org](http://www.immanuelnyc.org)

[www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC)

Immanuel's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCixDAacoJS7umLndrBnugmw>

You can tune in at 11 a.m. or later in the day for a recording.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

11 a.m., Sunday, December 19, 2021

**W**arm welcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church. This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning will soon be here. We are grateful to our members who worked yesterday decorating our church with the garlands and red ribbons and putting the lights on the big Christmas tree. Maybe even through live stream you can catch some of the beauty of things here at Immanuel. Please try to attend our Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services.

This morning's liturgy is heartwarming because our children help lead us with the music. Our *Immanuel Children's Choir and Chime Choir* will do two pieces for us today.

Most Sundays, we live stream our morning liturgy. We plan to do so this morning too. If for some reason, the live stream does not work this morning, you should be able to watch the recorded service later in the day. Actually you can always do that, whether you watch at 11 a.m. or not.

Because of Omicron and the upsurge of COVID cases in our land, we ask that everyone wear a mask nowadays here at Immanuel, even if you are vaccinated. Also, we worry about the elderly and people with weakened immune systems — we worry about them for Coffee Hour in the undercroft. It is the same as in restaurants: people take off their masks to eat. So, we are seeking to comply with NYC vaccination mandates: Please do not eat in the undercroft unless you are vaccinated.

Carol and I are fully vaccinated with our booster shots, but at least for a while, we mean to wear our masks when we are close to the people, as in the Distribution of Holy Communion.

We hope you will find strength for your souls in this liturgy. Thank you for joining in the prayers of thanksgiving by way of the Lord's Supper.

If you do not already have a church home, please consider joining us here at Immanuel. Just speak with Pastor Carol or send her a note ([ceafryer@gmail.com](mailto:ceafryer@gmail.com)).

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

[gp Fryer@gmail.com](mailto:gp Fryer@gmail.com)

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### *Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Three*

PRELUDE            *Ave Maria*            Kleber tablature (anon. 16th century)

THE BELLS

*Please stand when the minister approaches the center aisle.*

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☛ **Amen.**

☞ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☛ **Amen.**

☐ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Stand/kneel*

☐ Most merciful God,

☑ **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

☐ Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## The Entrance Rite

HYMN LBW 34

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

5 Oh, come, O 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. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

#### 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.

**C** And also with you.

#### KYRIE

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie, consisting of three staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with a line indicating the end of a phrase. The first staff has the lyrics: "Choir: Ky - ri - e" followed by a line, and "All: E - - - - - le-i - son." The second staff has the lyrics: "Choir: Chri - ste" followed by a line, and "All: E - - - - - le-i - son." The third staff has the lyrics: "Choir: Ky - ri - e" followed by a line, and "All: E - - - - - le-i - son."



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ **And also with you.**

☞ Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

ADVENT CANDLE *(The fourth candle is lit by Brigid and Noah Mehegan)*

☞ We praise you, O God, with this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Sit*

## The Liturgy of the Word of God

FIRST LESSON ..... Micah 5:2-5a, RSV

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah,  
who are little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in travail has brought forth;  
then the rest of his brethren shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> 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 dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And this shall be peace...

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM, Luke 1:46b-55, *Mary's Magnificat*, from LBW Vespers



**C** My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-joic-es in  
God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor on his low-ly ser-vant.  
From this day all gen-er-a-tions will call me bless-ed.  
The Al-might-y has done great things for me, and ho-ly is his name.  
He has mer-cy on those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.  
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the  
proud in their con-ceil. He has cast down the might-y from their thrones,  
and has lift-ed up the low-ly. He has filled the  
hun-gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a-way emp-ty.

(Continued, next page)

He has come to the help of his ser- vant Is - ra - el,  
 for he has re- mem- bered his prom- ise of mer- cy, the prom- ise he  
 made to our fa - thers, to A - bra - ham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.  
 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

SECOND LESSON ..... Hebrews 10:5-10, NRSV

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
 but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
 (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A The word of the Lord.

B Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Noel Nouvelet* Traditional French Carol  
*Immanuel Children's Choir & Chimes Choir, Michael Celentano, director*

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici,  
 Dévotes gens, crions à Dieu merci!  
 Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet!  
 Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

Let us sing here a new Christmas song.  
 Devout people, let us give thanks to God!  
 Let us sing a Christmas song for the new king.  
 A new Christmas song we sing here.

L'ange disait! pasteurs partez d'ici!  
 En Bethléem trouverez l'angelet.  
 Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet!  
 Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

The angel said 'Shepherds, leave this place,  
 with peaceful souls and joyful hearts;  
 in Bethlehem you will find the little lamb.'  
 A new Christmas song we sing here.

*Please stand for the singing of the Gospel Acclamation and for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

ALLELUIA: Traditional Gregorian Chant



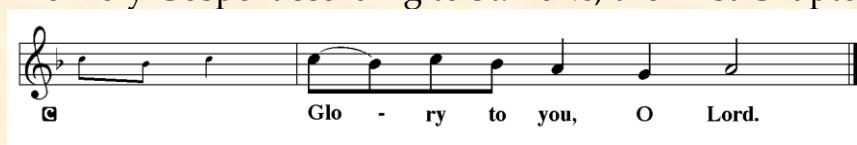
All: **Alleluia.**

Verse (Choir): Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

All: **Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL .....Luke 1:39-55, RSV  
*Before the Gospel:*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the First Chapter:



In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said,



“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.  
 For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is on those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm,  
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,  
<sup>52</sup>he has put down the mighty from their thrones,  
 and exalted those of low degree;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent empty away.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.”

*After the Gospel:*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord!



HYMN WOV 632 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
 with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
 “All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
 most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
  
- 2 “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
 all generations laud and honor thee;  
 thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
 most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

## SERMON

*Following the sermon, silence for reflection.*

# Reception of New Members

Zachary A. Chance and John F. Imhof, Jr.

## INTRODUCTIONS

## PASTORAL ADDRESS

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

CREED (*Congregation stands and joins our new members in the Creed.*)

**P** Do you believe in God the Father?

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PROMISES to continue in the faith of the Church.

PRAYER for our new members.

INTERCESSIONS

## The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☛ **And also with you.**

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

THE OFFERING *You can give your tithes and offerings via our Q code. Just point the camera on your smart phone to this code on your screen:*



*Or you can donate via this link: [Donate](#) Here are some other options for giving: [Ways to Give](#)*

*The Eucharistic Bread and Wine are moved from the credence table to the altar. The congregation remains in the pews until the Distribution of the Sacrament.*

Anthem *Coventry Carol* Anonymous 16th century  
*Immanuel Chimes Choir, Michael Celentano, director*

HYMN LBW 58 *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing* ES IST EIN ROSE

- 1 Lo, how a rose is growing,  
a bloom of finest grace;  
the prophets had foretold it:  
a branch of Jesse's race  
would bear one perfect flow'r  
here in the cold of winter  
and darkest midnight hour.

- 2 The rose of which I'm singing,  
Isaiah had foretold.  
He came to us through Mary,  
who sheltered him from cold.  
Through God's eternal will  
this child to us was given  
at midnight calm and still.
- 3 The shepherds heard the story  
the angels sang that night:  
how Christ was born of Mary;  
he was the Son of light.  
To Bethlehem they ran  
to find him in the manger  
as angel heralds sang.
- 4 This flow'r, so small and tender,  
with fragrance fills the air;  
his brightness ends the darkness  
that kept the earth in fear.  
True God and yet true man,  
he came to save his people  
from earth's dark night of sin.
- 5 O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt all human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who triumphed o'er our foe:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

Text: German, 15th cent.; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
© 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**A** Let us pray.

**C** **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

The image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a 'P' (Piano) dynamic and the lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' The second staff begins with a 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic and the lyrics 'And al - so with you.' The third staff begins with a 'P' (Piano) dynamic and the lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The fourth staff begins with a 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic and the lyrics 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

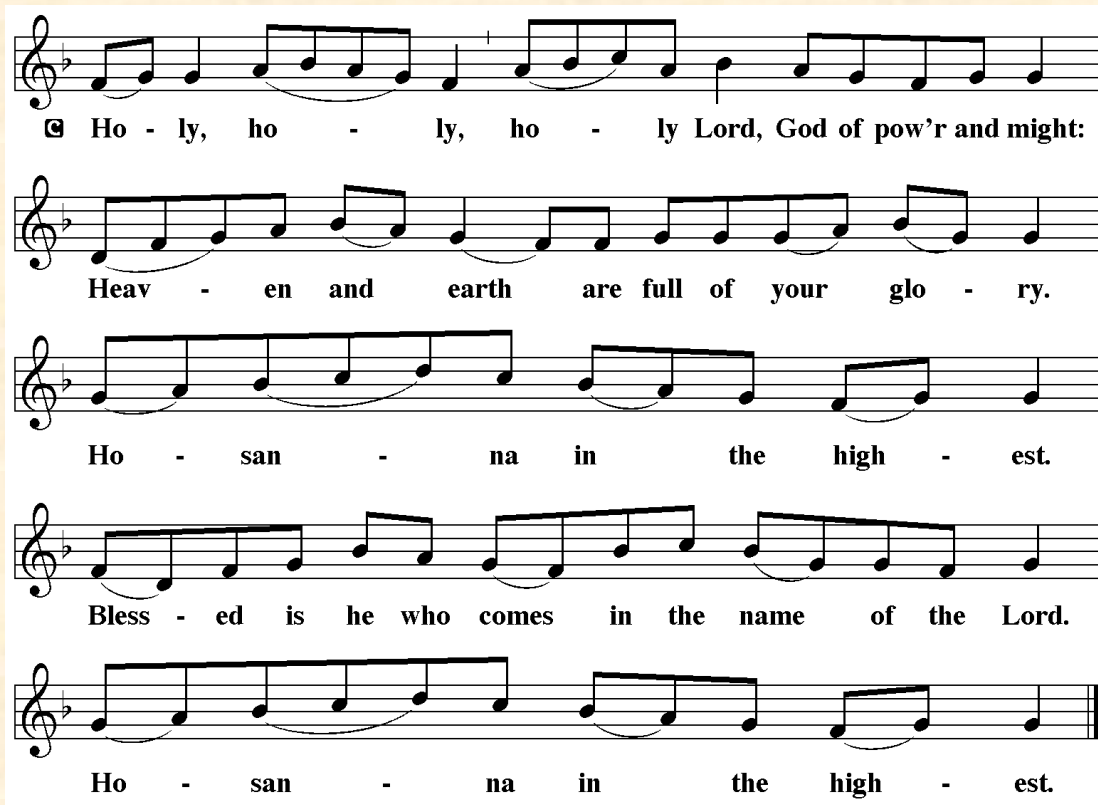
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### *Preface for Advent*

**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, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer I

☐ Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

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

**P** Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C 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.



**C** Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours,  
al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

*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 Fraction. (The host is broken.)*

## Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men

## Sit

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ If you are home during this pandemic, worshiping online with us, here is a possible “Prayer for Spiritual Communion” lifted up in *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.*



Communion Anthem *Ecce Concipiet*

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Ecce virgo concipiet et pariet filium  
et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.  
Alleluia.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel, God with us.  
Alleluia.

Communion Meditation *Maria zart von edler art* Arnolt Schlick (c.1455-1521)

HYMN LBW 198 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
comes our homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heav'nly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way;  
as the Light of light, descending  
from the realms of endless day,  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,  
as the darkness clears away.
- 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt.

*When all have received the Blessed Sacrament, the people stand for the Post-Communion Blessing:*

☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☑ **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## The Sending

BENEDICTION (*Spoken*)

HYMN LBW 28 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

- 1 Savior of the nations, come;  
Show the glory of the Son!  
Ev'ry people, stand in awe;  
Praise the perfect Son of God.
- 2 Not of human seed or worth,  
But from God's own mystic breath,  
Fruit in Mary's womb begun  
When God breathed the Word, his Son.
- 3 Wondrous birth ! Oh, wondrous child,  
Of the Virgin undefiled!  
Mighty God and man in one ,  
eager now his race to run!
- 4 God the Father is his source,  
Back to God he runs his course;  
Down to death and hell descends,  
God's high throne he re-ascends.

5 He leaves heaven to return,  
Trav'ling where dull hell fires burn;  
Riding out, returning home  
As the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son  
Girds himself in flesh to run  
For the trophies of our souls ,  
Longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,  
Breathing vict'ry with your light;  
Darkness cannot hide your flame,  
Shining bright as Jesus' name.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; tr. hymnal composite

Tune: J. Walther, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524

#### DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren* Lüneburger Tablature (anon. 17th c.)

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## Parish Announcements

✦ COFFEE HOUR IN THE UNDERCROFT. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship following the Liturgy. Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by Karen Bazik. To get to the undercroft for Coffee Hour, bear to the left in the narthex as you would exit the church.

✦ ABOUT TODAY'S PARAMENTS AND VESTMENTS. The blue paraments and vestments used during Advent are symbolic of hope. We hope for the Christ child to be born in us, and we wait in hope for his return.

- ✦ The ADVENT BANNER. Two trumpets are shown – one descending to announce the coming Christ and one ascending in praise for grace and thanksgiving for the coming Kingdom.
- ✦ LUTHERANISM 101: Today's class will repeat the class from Thanksgiving weekend – the class about "Private Confession." "Therefore when I admonish you to confession I am admonishing you to be a Christian." – Luther. Let's meet in the Large Sunday School room in the undercroft during Coffee Hour.
- ✦ CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND MUSIC FUND. The church is decorated at Christmas with a lighted tree and poinsettias. Members and friends may wish to place one or more poinsettia plants in the church to honor the memory of departed loved ones or simply as a gift to the glory of God in the incarnate Christ. A gift of \$20.00 for each plant as well as gifts toward the Christmas Music Fund may be given, using the envelope included with this bulletin for your convenience. You may place it in the offering plate or give it to Ester Neubacher or Pastor Carol after church today.
- ✦ CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE. The Sunday School will have a mitten tree once again this year. Please give the mittens (or gloves) you bring to one of our Sunday School teachers. The mittens will be given to the Fraternité Notre Dame who will distribute them to needy children. The mitten tree will be put up during the Hanging of the Greens on December 18th.
- ✦ Join us for COMPLINE (Prayer at the Close of the Day) this evening at 8 pm via Zoom or in Pastor Carol's study, 120 East 88<sup>th</sup>, Apt 1F; and MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION at 6:30 pm.
- ✦ COPYRIGHTS: Parts of the liturgy and scripture introductions come from or are based on those from *Sundays and Seasons*, Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress, license SAS022429. Readings of Holy Scripture are downloaded from Bible Gateway – <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Copyright information for the various translations is included on the Bible Gateway website.



## Service Notes

Organist and Director of Music .....Dr. Gwendolyn Toth  
Ushers/Greeters ..... Toshitake “Jazo” Ichikawa, Luz Ortiz  
Lector.....Deirdre Grant  
Preacher and Assisting Minister ..... Rev. Gregory P. Fryer  
Presiding Minister.....Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer

### Some Notes on Our Church Nave and Liturgy

- ✦ You might be interested to hear about our reredos — the wooden altarpiece at the front of our church. It was hand carved by artists in Germany’s Black Forest. The left statue is Moses, with the Ten Commandments in his left arm and the two horn-like rays of light shining forth from his face after his encounter with the Lord on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:29-30). The right-hand statue is St. John the Evangelist, with a quill pen in his hand and an eagle at his feet. And the center statue is Jesus Christ, the personal unity and the most perfect meaning of the Law (Moses) and the Gospel (St. John).
- ✦ Our painting of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, above the reredos, pays tribute to the founding liturgy of our congregation, Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 1863. Our painting shows Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the ground, so that at first glance you might think that it is a painting of the Ascension. But the saintly company with Jesus — Moses and Elijah on either side, with Peter, James, and John fallen down in awe at the sight — point to the Transfiguration. Heaven knows and gives credit to the anonymous painter of our painting, but we note that it is in the style of Raphael’s painting of *The Transfiguration* (1517-1520). Raphael also placed Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the disciples.
- ✦ Our church windows were installed in 1973 and constitute a visual meditation on an ancient hymn of the Church, the *Te Deum*. Pamphlets are available in the rear of the church explaining the windows one by one.
- ✦ Our church bells, named *Glaube*, *Hoffnung*, and *Liebe* for Faith, Hope, and Love, were a gift from German Empress Augusta Viktoria.

- ✦ A hint about acoustics: you will be able to hear the choir and organ better if you sit toward the front half of the church. The overhanging choir balcony obscures some of the beauty of the music for those sitting under it.
- ✦ Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me,” and we view the presence of children in worship, even when they are wiggly and noisy, as a gift to the Church and an encouragement that our congregation is growing! Parents at their own preference are also welcome to take advantage of free childcare which we offer in the Undercroft every Sunday for children age 3-6. Our childcare worker will bring these children up to the Communion rail to receive a Blessing. We encourage older children to attend the entire service, either sitting with their parents or up in the balcony where the teens tend to congregate.
- ✦ Our worship book is the green hymnal, the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (“LBW”). This book contains both liturgies and hymns, with liturgies in the first half and hymns in the second. Sometimes we include hymns from *With One Voice* (“WOV”) or from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (“ELW”).
- ✦ If you have a cell phone, please silence it for the liturgy. And please finish coffee or other drinks out in the narthex rather than in the main nave.
- ✦ This congregation is a member of the NALC – the “North American Lutheran Church.” The national bishop of the NALC is Rev. Daniel W. Selbo.

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## Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street ❖ New York, NY 10128 ❖ (212) 289-8128

[www.immanuelnyc.org](http://www.immanuelnyc.org)

[www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC)

HOLY COMMUNION ..... 11 a.m. Sundays  
 MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION ..... 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL ..... Sundays at 10 a.m. in the undercroft  
 MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY ..6:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room  
 PARISH SECRETARY ..... Rev. Carol E.A. Fryer

SEXTON.....Gerry Britton  
 PARISH BOOKKEEPER..... Charles Derderian  
 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC .....Dr. Gwendolyn Toth  
 PASTOR.....Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer  
 SENIOR PASTOR..... Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

*Some Parish Ministry Opportunities:*

CHOIR ..... Director of Music Dr. Gwendolyn Toth (212) 289-8128  
 MEALS ON HEELS..... Barbara Chomko (bchomko@nyc.rr.com)

**W**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. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gpfryer@gmail.com or ceafryer@gmail.com.
- ✦ 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 either 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:

