



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Christmas Eve



Christmas Window at Wartburg Chapel, Mount Vernon, NY

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus

6:30 p.m. Tuesday Evening, December 24, 2024

Warm welcome to each of you on this Christmas Eve. This night our voices blend with those of the angels as we celebrate the Word made flesh! If you are visiting with us, we are very pleased to welcome you and invite you to worship with us again, including tomorrow's Christmas Morning liturgy at 11 a.m.

Pastor Carol, Pastor Lara, and I and our whole congregation extend warm greetings to you this Christmas Season. If you are new in town or do not yet have a church home, please consider joining our congregation. We have included a contact information insert in this worship folder, and we hope we can meet with you at your convenience.

We are honored and delighted that you are here and hope that you will return. If you do not already have a church home in our city, please consider joining this congregation. We would rejoice to have you. We would rejoice to have you. Just send me an email (gpfryer@gmail.com) or speak with Pastor Carol Fryer (caefryer@gmail.com) or with Pastor Lara Bhasin (lara.bhasin@tsm.edu).

Merry Christmas!
In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer
gpfryer@gmail.com

Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Three

- ✦ Our congregation is one of the historic Lutheran churches in town, going back to the middle of the Civil War, 1863. We are a member of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).
- ✦ A hint about acoustics: You will be able to hear the cantors 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.
- ✦ Another hint about acoustics: You can see that our speakers are placed at the columns throughout the nave. So, it would be good to sit to the inside of the speakers — not on the outer edges of the pews but more toward the center.
- ✦ Finally, throughout our history, Immanuel has been a singing church. So, sing out! Even if you think you do not have a good voice, sing out! God loves to hear you sing.

PRELUDE

BELLS

Announcement of Our Lord's Birth

P 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!

C 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!

C We worship and adore him. Alleluia!

Stand

Candlelight Entrance Procession

The ministers work their way down the center aisle, lighting people's candles. In passing the light, please do not tip lighted candles.

HYMN LBW 45

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

(Refrain, next page)

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

- P** Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord.
- C** 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,
- C** 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.

☑ Amen.

☐ 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.

Please extinguish your candle.

Liturgy of the Word

APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ 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

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

(Refrain, next page)

Refrain

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Glo - ri - a'. The second system contains the lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a'. The third system contains the lyrics 'ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Sit

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.

G Thanks be to God.

Go Tell It on the Mountain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14, NRSV

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.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Alleluia hymn and the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

THE HOLY GOSPEL..... Luke 2:1-20 (*King James Version*)
Before the Gospel:

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the Second Chapter.

Glo - ry 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. ⁶And 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

P The Gospel of the Lord!

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.”

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels 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. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And 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.



HYMN LBW 60

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Next page)

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

(Refrain, next page)

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Please sit after Pastor Gregory Fryer's opening invocation.

SERMON

Silence for reflection after the sermon, then stand for the Creed, Intercessions and Exchange of Peace.

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

☐ 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 *We collect our tithes and offerings via our good, old offering plates. Or you can contribute via our QR code. Just point the camera on your smart phone to the code:*



The Eucharistic Bread and Wine are moved from the credence table to the altar.

Hymn LBW 44

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W O B I E L E Y

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY, Polish carol

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Merciful Father,

C 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



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.

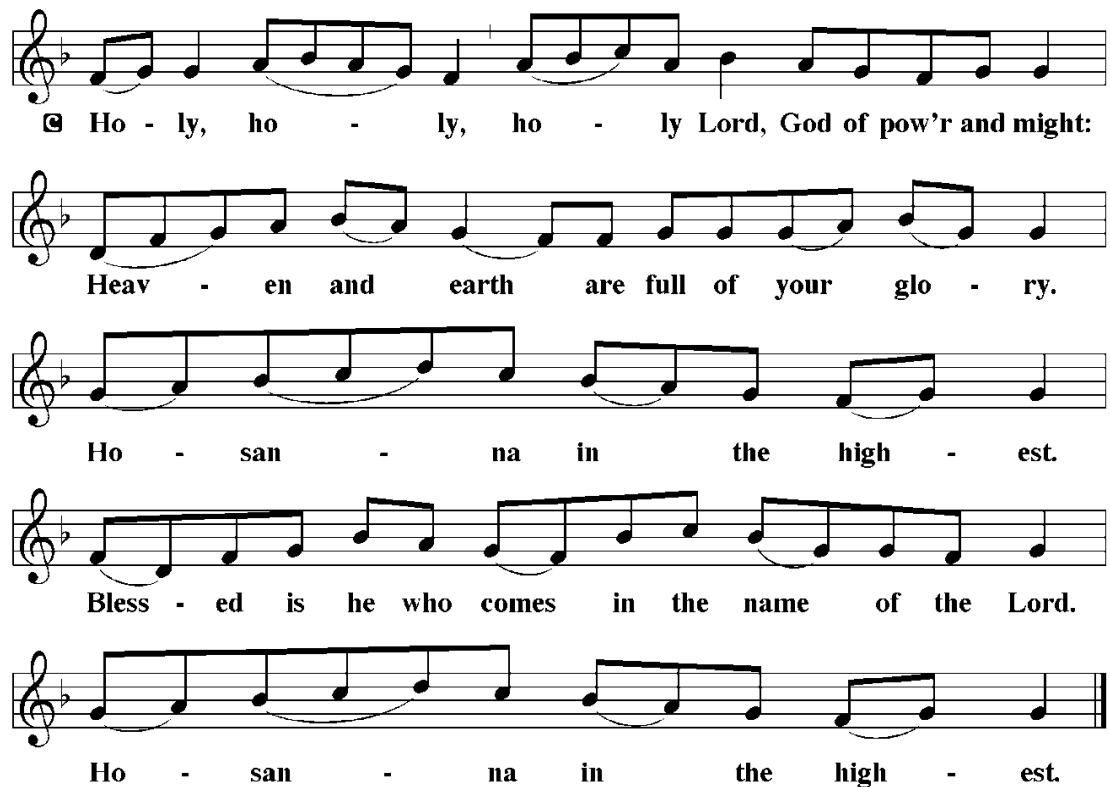


C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Preface for 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 (Next page)



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 II

☐ 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.

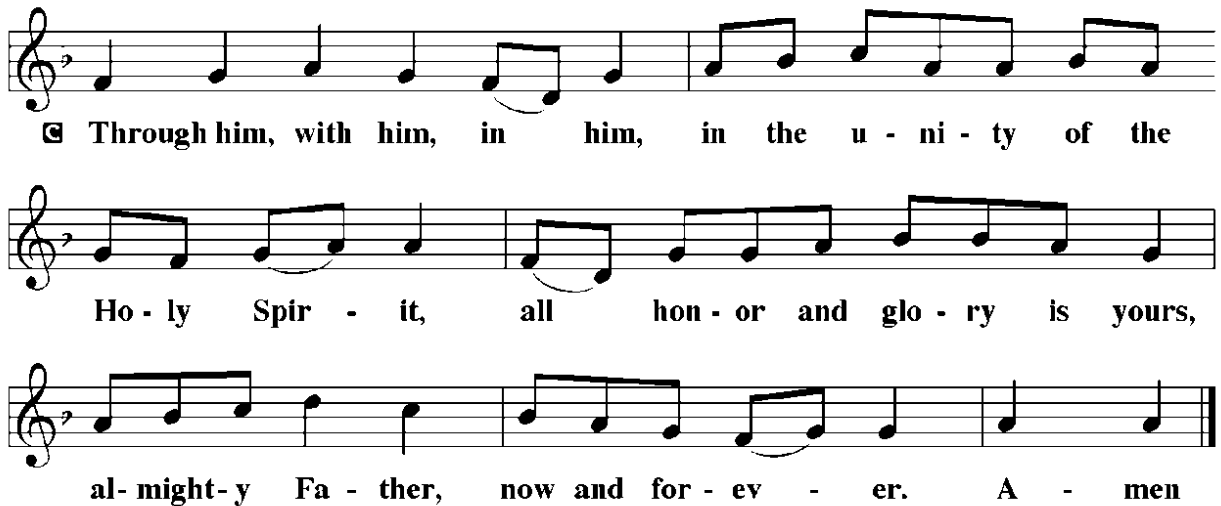
☐ Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension 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.

☐ 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.

☐ 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 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

☑ 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; 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 COMMUNION (*by stations*)

- ✦ “For unto *you* is born this day in the city of David a Saviour...” All who are baptized and desire communion with our Savior as he comes to us in this Holy Sacrament are welcome to the Table. Lutherans celebrate this Sacrament with the understanding 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.
- ✦ Please come forward by way of the center aisle and the minister will drop the Communion host into your hands. *Then bear off to the right for the pouring chalice and to the left for the common cup.* If you use the pouring chalice, when you are done with the wine, please place your little cup on the tray. We mean to carefully and respectfully dispose of the remaining wine in the little cups.
- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly before or while receiving the Holy Sacrament, as many Christians do, here is one of Luther’s prayers for that purpose:

Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.
Yet I am in need and desire your help and grace. So I come with no other

plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to your altar. I am unworthy, but you have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; your Word is true. I do not doubt it. Let happen to me whatever you say. Amen.

- ✦ And if you should desire to pray quietly after receiving the Holy Communion, here is a possible such prayer. It is based on a prayer of St. Basil the Great (329-379):

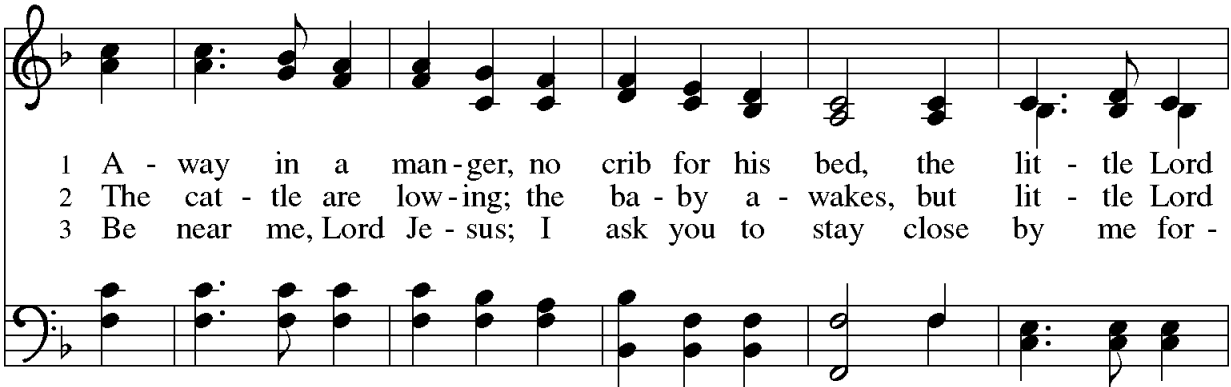
☉ Master, Christ our God: I thank you for all the good things which you have bestowed upon me, and for this partaking of your life-giving Sacrament. And I pray: keep me, my loved ones, and this congregation under your protection, and in the shadow of your wings. For you are the Bread of Life, the Fountain of holiness, the Giver of good things, and unto you we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

HYMN LBW 67

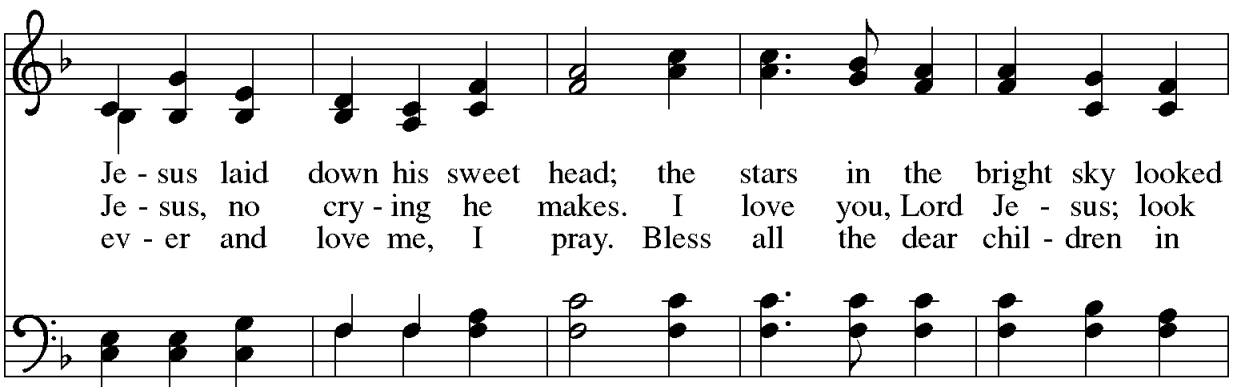
Away in a Manger
(Next page)

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

HYMN LBW 65

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(Next page)

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

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

☐ 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. **Amen.**

The people's candles are lighted. In passing the light, do not tip the lighted candles. The candles remain lighted through the Blessing.

HYMN LBW 65

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

You may lift your candle aloft for verse three.

(Next page)

Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Dismissal

SOLEMN BLESSING

☐ 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.

☑ Amen.

Extinguish candles.

Hymn LBW 39

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive its King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

(Continued, next page)

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Parish Announcements

- ✦ CHRISTMAS MORNING. Please hasten back tomorrow morning at 11 a.m. for our Christmas morning liturgy. It is a relaxed, joyful service, with lots of Christmas carols.
- ✦ ABOUT TODAY'S PARAMENTS AND VESTMENTS: Unto us a Son is given! The white paraments and vestments symbolize gladness, purity, light, and joy to all the world!
- ✦ THE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 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.
- ✦ COPYRIGHTS: Parts of the liturgy and scripture introductions come from or are based on those from *Sundays and Seasons*, Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress, license SAS022429. Permission to reprint, podcast, and or stream the music in this service

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Service Notes

Organist and ChoirmasterJerusha Ramos
Cantors Teresa Castillo
Greeters/Ushers..... Luz Ortiz, Jazo Ichikawa
Crucifer..... Matthias Bhasin
Torchbearers.....Sam and Robin Fryer
Lector..... Charles Rao
Presiding Minister Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
Assisting Minister Vicar Lara Bhasin
Preacher.....Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Intercessions

FAIRLY NEW TO THE PRAYER LIST: Kathy Jolowicz, Sonny Hermann (friend of Maria Van Der Merwe), Patricia Sanders, Jess Gaines (relative of the Fryers), Jean Fischer, June Dittbrenner (Carol's mother), Carlos Opio, Celia Cabrera

THE NALC GLOBAL WORKERS for December are Sam Chim in Cambodia and Swapan Sarker in Bangladesh.

Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer, Pastor Lara Bhasin, 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.

Looking Ahead

Christmas Morning

11 a.m., tomorrow, Wednesday morning, December 25, 2024

The traditional Gospel Lesson is John 1, with its magnificent doctrine of the holy incarnation of our God.

First Sunday of Christmas

11 a.m. Sunday, December 29, 2024

We are glad to worship as we near this end of the year of our Lord 2024.

Name of Jesus

11 a.m., Wednesday, January 1, 2025

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.

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.

Some Notes on Our Church Nave and Liturgy

- ✦ Our congregation is one of the historic Lutheran churches in town, going back to the middle of the Civil War, 1863. We are a member of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The national bishop of the NALC is Rev. Daniel Selbo.
- ✦ 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!
- ✦ 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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Office Hours: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday - Friday

www.immanuelnyc.org

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION	11 a.m. Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION.....	6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Martin Luther Room
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....	10 a.m. Sundays
THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY.....	In Christmas recess
PARISH SECRETARY	Karen Katz-Shea
SEXTON.....	Gerry Britton
SEXTON ASSISTANT	Drew Garcia
PARISH BOOKKEEPER	Charles Derderian
CANTOR.....	Olivia Ericsson oliviaer@umich.edu
ASSISTANT PASTOR.....	Rev. Lara Bhasin
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
PASTOR.....	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

A Social Ministry Opportunity:

MEALS ON HEELS Barbara Chomko (bchomko@nyc.rr.com)

We extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that you will return. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Christmas bulletin insert and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Lara Bhasin or 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 caefryer@gmail.com.