



Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

212-289-8128

www.immanuelnyc.org

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

Christmas Morning

The Nativity of Our Lord, December 25, 2024

Warm welcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church. On this happy morning, we celebrate the great truth to which the name of our church points: Our God is *Immanuel* — God with us!

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. Send Pastor Carol an email sometime: ceafryer@gmail.com.

In Christ,

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting 3

- ✦ 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.
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PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION AND GREETING

- P** I bring you good tidings 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!**

The Entrance Rite

HYMN LBW 45

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

- ☐ Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word of God

FIRST LESSONIsaiah 52:7-10, RSV

A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!"

Everyone will witness the salvation of God.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good tidings,
who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice,
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

HYMN LBW 43 *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn* WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 1:1-4, RSV

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

¹In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of

his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL PROCESSION

As the Bible is carried into the midst of the people those in the front pews turn and face the place where the Gospel is read.

SEQUENCE HYMN LBW 44

Infant Holy, Infant Holy, vs. 1
W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

HOLY GOSPELJohn 1:1-14, RSV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter.

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of several notes: a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. Below the staff, the lyrics "Glo - ry to you, O Lord." are written, with hyphens under "Glo" and "ry" to indicate the notes are held across the bar lines. A square symbol is placed below the first note.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God; ³all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

After the Gospel:

☐ The Gospel of the Lord!



SEQUENCE HYMN LBW 44 *Infant Holy, Infant Holy, vs. 2*

HYMN LBW 42 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

SERMON

Silence for reflection, and then stand for the Creed.

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 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

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."

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 40

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

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



☐ The Lord be with you. **☑** And al - so with you.



☐ Lift up your hearts. **☑** We lift them to the Lord.



☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.


Preface for Christmas

☐ 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 (Next page)

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):

O 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.

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

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.**

Silence for reflection.

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!**

HYMN LBW 39

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Parish Announcements

- ✦ 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 obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-713464. Readings of Holy Scripture are often downloaded from Bible Gateway: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Copyright information for the various translations is included on the Bible Gateway website.

Service Notes

Substitute Organist.....	Jerusha Ramos
Cantor.....	Teresa Castillo
Greeters/Ushers	Luz Ortiz
Crucifer.....	Matthias Bhasin
Lector.....	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer
Presiding Minister	Rev. Lara Bhasin
Assisting Minister.....	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer
Preacher.....	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer

Intercessions

FAIRLY NEW TO THE PRAYER LIST: Kathy Jolowicz, 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.

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!
- ✦ 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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

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LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION	11 a.m. Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION.....	6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....	10 a.m. Sundays
THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY	In Christmas recess
PARISH SECRETARY.....	Karen Katz-Shea
SEXTON.....	Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER.....	Charles Derderian
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER.....	
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 one of the cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the Pastors. If you are interested in membership here at Immanuel, please contact the church office for an appointment with Pastor Carol (ceafryer@gmail.com) or Pastor Lara (lara.bhasin@tsm.edu).

✦ 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 or lara.bhasin@tsm.edu.
- ✦ 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:

