

December 18, 2022
4th Sunday of Advent

The background of the central section is a photograph of an open hymn book with musical notation, resting on a dark surface. In the foreground, a lit candle in a brass candlestick is visible, casting a warm glow. The overall lighting is soft and atmospheric, with some bokeh light effects.

Songs
&
SILENCE



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #108:1-4

“We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise”

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful & need His forgiveness.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from conception. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

C Amen!

The Introit

Ps. 93:1-2, 5; Is. 9:2

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C **Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

P The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.

C **Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.**

P Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

C **Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C **Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

The Kyrie & The Gloria Patri

Latin for "Lord, Have Mercy" and "Glory be to the Father"



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.



Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." ⁵ And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him-- for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength-- ⁶ he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Revelation 5:8-14

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the

throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

G  **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I BELIEVE...

in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #98:1-3

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Luke 2:8-14

"When And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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 among those with whom he is pleased!"



"This is the Song that Never Ends"

- I. This is the Song that promises more
- II. This is the Song that we'll continue singing

The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- ☞** *♩* **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: WS #715

"Where Shepherds Lately Kneel"

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

The Advent of our KING



P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts!

C We lift them up to the Lord.

The Order of Holy Communion



P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God for Your Son, Whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



C: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and



earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho-



san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly



blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

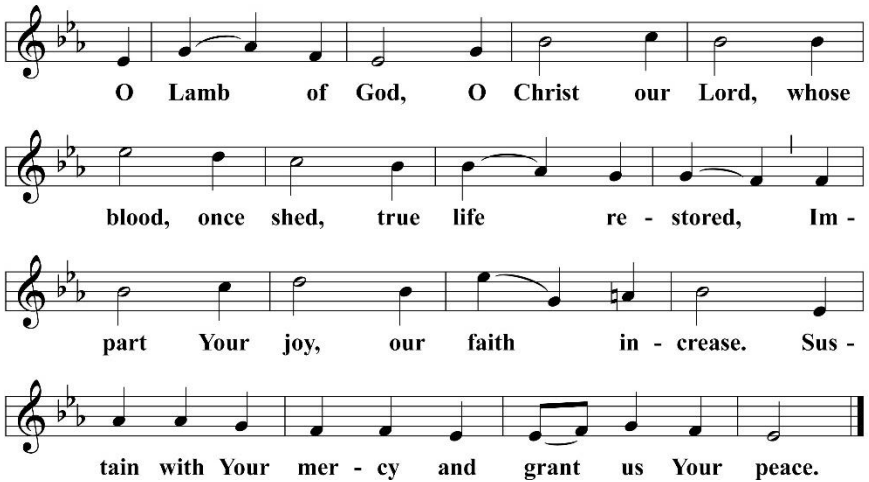
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ **The Distribution of the Lord's Supper** ✠



C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For



light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es



tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your



bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: TLH #94:1-2

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

The Immanuel Lutheran College Christmas Concert was held on Friday evening at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. If you would like to watch the recording of the concert, you can find it on the YouTube page "ilcvideos" as it will be located under the "live" tab. It will be well worth your time!

Upcoming Schedule:

Wed., Dec. 21st – No Midweek Bible Class or Advent Service

Sat., Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

Sun., Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Service 10:00 am
– (No Bible Class or Sunday School)

Wed., Dec. 28th – No Midweek Bible Class

Sat., Dec. 31st – New Year's Eve Service 7:00 pm

Sun., Jan. 1st – Regular Sunday Worship
– Officer Installation
– (No Bible Class or Sunday School)

Wed., Jan. 4th – Bible Class Resumes 9:30 am

CLC Call News: Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, **is still considering** the dual call to serve Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA and Ascension Lutheran, Tacoma, WA.

December 11th Offerings:	\$ 1,842.65
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,607.69
General Fund Balance	\$20,544.13
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$30,204.03
Total Cash All Funds	\$66,084.00

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy.” **Romans 15:13**

The most important Christmas gifts cannot be purchased with cash or credit cards. Even limitless funds can't buy true love or lasting happiness. Gifts like the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, contentment, joy, and peace cannot be purchased. Yet, God gives us these very gifts freely in His Son, Jesus Christ. In a real sense these are Christmas gifts, because they were fulfilled in the coming of Christ that first Christmas.

In Romans 15:4-13 Paul describes various gifts beneath God's tree. We can think of this tree as a Christmas tree—remembering, however, that this tree shed its needles and became the old rugged cross. One of those gifts that Paul mentions is JOY.

From where does true joy originate? This time of year few phrases are more common than “have a merry Christmas.” But what is it that makes your Christmas joyful? Does Christmas joy have anything to do with the number of presents beneath the tree, the weather on Christmas Day, the tenderness of the roast or texture of the mashed potatoes? If so, our joy is destined to dim and flicker like a bad Christmas tree light.

The Greek word for joy in Romans 15:13 is related to the word for grace: the undeserved love and favor of God. Biblical joy does not mean smiles and giggles. Rather, it means a Christian heart can rejoice in all circumstances. And the reason for this joy is Jesus Christ.

I remember one Christmas shortly after my parents divorced. I was ten at the time. I knew how my dad was struggling financially, and I could not bring myself to ask for many Christmas gifts. In fact, the only gift I requested was a basketball. But that basketball meant more to me than many other gifts. Why? Because in relative terms, I knew how much it cost my dad to give it to me.

Our heavenly Father has given us the gift of salvation. How much did this gift cost Him? It cost Him the life of His own Son, Jesus. And His undeserved gift of salvation in Christ is always a reason to go on rejoicing regardless of our circumstances.

Do you want a life filled with joy? It's yours for the asking, gift wrapped and waiting beneath God's tree—the cross.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 19 - 24, '22

Mon Psalm 147:12-20 *What the fathers most desired...* As we near the end of the Psalms and the end of Advent, the Hallelujahs praising God begin to cascade over one another. It is He who protects, blesses, makes peace, fills us with good things, and the list goes on. Best of all, He declares His word to us, which judges us righteous in connection with His Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we are about to celebrate.

Tues Deuteronomy 18:15-19 *What the prophets' heart inspired...* Moses is addressing the Children of Israel before he is taken from them. Having warned them about the soothsayers in the countries that lie ahead of them, he points to the true source of Wisdom, the Prophet who is yet to come, who will speak to them the words of life.

Wed Isaiah 12:2-3 The prophet Isaiah looks to the approaching joy when we are saved from God's anger over our sins. The LORD, our strength and song, is totally trustworthy, and His forgiveness means that we may enjoy the water of life!

Thurs Isaiah 12:4-6 The day approaching is a day of joyful songs worshiping and thanking God and proclaiming His glorious deeds in all the earth. Truly He who comes to dwell with us is great in every respect!

Fri John 1:15-18 *What they longed for many a year...* As great as John the Baptist was, the Savior who came after him was far greater. He was greater than the prophets and apostles, who all received grace upon grace from Him. He was greater even than Moses, who brought God's law which shows our sin, while the Christ delivered us from sin, death, and hell.

Sat 1 John 1:1-4 *Stands fulfilled in glory here (TLH91).* The blessings of God extend from the beginning of the world to all eternity. The Father sent His Son to give us life, to draw us to Himself and to one another. All of His loving-kindnesses in sustaining our present life pale when compared to the joyous eternal fellowship with Him and each other.