

*Behold, the Lord shall come and all His saints with Him;
and in that day the Light shall be great. Hallelujah!*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4th Saturday in Advent
Church Phone: 867-5088 Cell Phone 760-1854— December 23, 2023 --- 5:30 pm

Opening Prayer /// Opening Hymn: *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 338*

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C:** *Amen.*

P: O Lord, open my lips.	C: <i>And my mouth will declare Your praise.</i>
P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;	C: <i>Make haste to help me, O Lord.</i>
P: Behold, the days are coming, saith the Lord	C: <i>I will raise to David a righteous Branch</i>
P: A King shall reign and prosper	C: <i>He shall execute justice on the earth</i>
P: This is His name whereby He shall be called	C: <i>The Lord our Righteousness</i>
P: Prepare Ye the way of the Lord	C: <i>Make His paths straight</i>
P: This is the day the Lord has made	C: <i>Let us rejoice and be glad in it</i>

Psalmody: *Psalm 89: 1-5*

P: I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations. **C:** *For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever, in heavens you will establish your faithfulness.*

P: You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: **C:** *‘I will establish your offspring forever and build your throne for all generations.’”*

P: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, **C:** *Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.*

All: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Collect: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C:** *Amen.*

Hymn: *“A Great and Mighty Wonder” 383* /// **O.T. Lesson:** *2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16*

Epistle Lesson: *Romans 16: 25-27* /// **Holy Gospel:** *Luke 1: 26-38*

Hymn: *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” 357 vs. 1,2,5,7*

Children’s Sermon /// **Sermon** /// **Confession of Faith:** *Nicene Creed (back of Hymnal)*

Offering brought to the Altar

Prayers: The families of Parsons, Katy and Zappa; Patterson, Julie, Matt, Garrett, Wyatt and Lydia; and Paul, Doris, Mike and Samantha.

Lord's Prayer (back of hymnal)

Confession of Sins

C: *Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive 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.*

Absolution: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Admonition to Communicants: I exhort you in Christ, that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the Words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness. That you take note of, and give thanks for, the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own Words administer and receive His Sacrament.

Blessing of Elements /// **Distribution** /// **Hymn:** "From East to West" 385

Closing Collect: *Heavenly Father, You grant us Your Spirit to open our eyes and enlighten our minds to serve You and fellow believers; lead us by Your Spirit to enable us to witness of Your love, live according to Your will, bring Your Word of life to others, rejoice in the goodness You have showered upon us, and reflect Your love in how we reach out to others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Benediction

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Kirk Horstmeyer, Pastor
Karen Whitehead, Organist

WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

In I Corinthians 11 the Holy Spirit led Paul to write, "This is my body" and "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" to explain the spiritual truth of the Supper: Christ is truly present in His body and blood in the bread and wine. This is a mystery, a Heavenly gift; one we can only understand in faith. Paul further says, "Therefore whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" and, "let a man examine himself...for he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly." There is no doubt from our Lord's Word, we are receiving His body and blood. The Father offers us forgiveness, unity of faith, strengthening of faith, etc.; it is never our right, we approach His altar only by His invitation. If you are visiting we ask that you please speak with the Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. We strive to lovingly carry out our responsibility to ensure the supper remains a blessing for all, never a curse. May His richest blessing be upon you all.

THIS WEEK

TONIGHT: Worship w/HC 5:30 pm
TOMORROW: **Worship 9:45 am** w/*Confirmation & High School Youth*, **Worship w/HC 6:00 pm** with **Choir Participation and Worship w/HC 10:00 pm** **Candle-Light Service**
THURSDAY: Bible Study 9:30 am and 6 pm
Next SATURDAY: Worship w/HC 5:30 pm
Next SUNDAY: New Year's Eve Worship 8 am and Worship 10:15 am, **NO EVENING SERVICES**

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: Sat, Dec 16: 45 LS: 37; Sun, Dec 17: 8 am: 74 LS: 58; 10:15 am: 43 LS: 30; Mid-Week Advent 2: 61

Member Prayer List: Next Saturday and Sunday we will be praying for the families of Puertzer, Jim; Racine, Jeremy, Jill, Lauren and Corinne; and Racine, Jerry and Beverly.

DECEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS

Mid-Week Advent Meal: December 20 begin at 6:10 pm
Mid-Week Advent Worship: December at 7 pm
Saturday, December 23 **Worship Service w/HC at 5:30 pm** (normal time)
Sunday, December 24 there will **ONE Service at 9:45 am** in the morning which will involve *Confirmation & High School Youth* participation; and **two services** in the evening at **6:00 pm** with **Choir Participation w/HC and 10:00 pm** **Candle- Light Service w/HC**
Monday, December 25 at 9:30 am **Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion**
Sunday, December 31 **New Year's Eve Service 8 am and 10:15 am, No Evening Service**