



# Fírst Sunday after Christmas

Matthew 2:14, NRSV

Immanuel Lutheran Church- LCMS Lakefield, Minnesota December 28, 2025

# It's Still Christmas

#### As We Gather

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

# Preparation



#### Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

**Psalm** *Psalm* 111:1–10

- Praise the LORD!
  I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
- in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- **P** Great are the works of the LORD,
- studied by all who delight in them.
- **P** Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
- and His righteousness endures forever.
- P He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;
- **C** the LORD is gracious and merciful.
- **P** He provides food for those who fear Him;
- **C** He remembers His covenant forever.
- P He has shown His people the power of His works,
- **C** in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;
- they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- P He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.
- **C** Holy and awesome is His name!
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.
- C His praise endures forever!

## Confession and Absolution Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14

- P O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, "the fullness of time," that is not true in our personal lives.
- Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.
- **P** We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

- Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.
- P We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.
- Forgive us for not giving Your leading us "a glorious name," forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.
- Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, "Abba! Father!" As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

# Word

**Introit for Christmas 1** *Jeremiah 31:15–17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1* 

- When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.
- A Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears,

for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,\* and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

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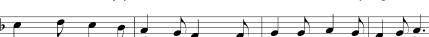
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- 1 Now sing we, now re - joice,
- 2 Come from on high to me;
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
- where shall joy be found?

Now raise to heav'n our voice: I can - not to Thee. rise The Fa-ther's grace di - vine. Where but on heav'n-ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Cheer my wea-ried spir - it, Death was reign-ing o'er us an - gels sing - ing Where the

Poor lies; in man - ger O pure and ho - ly Child; Through sin and van - i - ty His saints u - nite, With all



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in von - der Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild, bright e - ter - ni - ty. He o - pened for Α us heav'n-ly joy Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In



Thou my Sav - ior art! Draw me un - to Thee! May we praise Him there! Oh. that we were there! Thou my Sav - ior art! Draw me un - to Thee! May we praise Him there! Oh. that we were there!

and

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

## Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.

- $\mathbf{C}$ Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us:
- through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with  $\mathbf{P}$ You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 63:7-14

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD,

according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel

that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely."

And he became their Savior.

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

But they rebelled

and grieved his Holy Spirit;

therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people.

Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses,

who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.

So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

- **P** To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- and the government shall be upon His shoulder.
- P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
- **C** Mighty God,
- P Everlasting Father,
- **C** Prince of Peace.
- P Sing to the LORD a new song,
- **C** for He has done marvelous things!

## **Epistle**

Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### Verse

Luke 2:30, 32

- **P** Alleluia.
- My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.
- P Alleluia.

# **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 2:13-23

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: 594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It Ι 1 God's own child, Ι glad - ly say it: am bap-tized 2 Sin. dis turb my soul no long - er: Ι am bap-tized 3 Sa tan, hear proc - la - ma - tion: Ι bap-tized this am 4 Death, end my glad-ness: Ι bap-tized you can not am 5 There is noth - ing worth com-par-ing To this life-long in to Christ! He, be Ι could not cause pay it. in to Christ! have com - fort e ven strong-er: to Christ! ac -Drop your cu - sa - tion, in ug -1y to Christ! When Ì die, Í leave all sad - ness com - fort sure! O grave pen eyed my is star - ing: Gave my demp tion price. Do full re -I need earth's ri - fice. Should Je sus' cleans - ing sac a guilt en - ticed. Now that to Ι so soon the am not To in her - it par a - dise! Though Ι lie in my flesh Ε ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though a trea sures man y? have one worth Since science seize tism con me my Bap font I've trav eled. All your might has Faith's dust and ash es as sur ance Still waits its rais ing, my soul con more than an У That brought me sal re - lease me dear for did In a un - rav - eled, And. gainst your come a bright ly flash - es: Bap tism has the ues prais - ing: I bap tin am tized tion free Last - ing to ter ni - tv! e giv ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je sus' blood? tyr an - ny, God. my Lord, u nites with me! strength di - vine To make life im tal mine. mor in to Christ: I'm a child of par a - dise! Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957 Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt.

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Tune: Public domain

#### Sermon

## Catechism

The Second Article

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

# Prayer of the Church

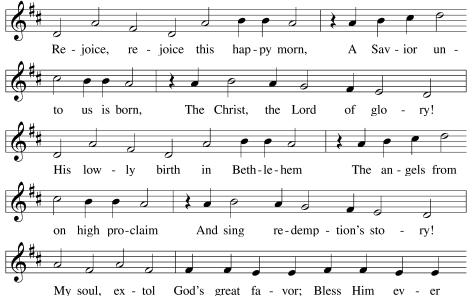
- Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer. For the church, that the news of Christ's birth among us would bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For those who have rebelled against all that our caring God has lavished upon them and that He would open their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For those who have not heard about Jesus' birth, about our Savior's willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about their own salvation, that God would surround them

with people of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For all who tend fields, raise animals, distribute food, or work in supermarkets and roadside stands, that they recognize that they work to alleviate hunger and do what pleases our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue, that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For those near and dear to us, [<u>especially...</u>], that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

# Offering

# Hymn: 391 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn





For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

# Lord's Prayer Ou

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.

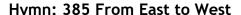
### **Benediction**

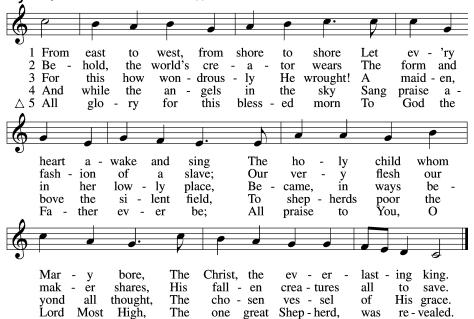
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.





Ho - ly

Ghost

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And Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826-93, alt.

Tune: Geistliche lieder, 1539, Leipzig, ed. Valten Schumann

Text and tune: Public domain

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#### Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

#### Thank be to God!

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## Acknowledgments

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### **Assisting with the Service**

Preacher Rev. Duane Miesner Elder Steve Matasovsky Organist LaDonna Peterson

Acolyte Caleb Laabs & Karissa Daberkow

Usher Dewayne & Donna Hage

## We Remember in our Prayers

Marilyn Bauer in Hospice following a stroke

Dory Poppe recovering from knee surgery

Anitra Carlson, daughter-in-law of Roger and Beth Carlson, recovering from surgery

Silas Liepold recovering from surgery

Clyde Daberkow in Hospice

Those who have lost loved ones over the past year

Our residents at Colonial Manor, Valley View, Golden Horizons in Worthington, Accura HealthCare in Milford, Koronis in Paynesville, Good Sam in Estherville

Lila Voehl, Jan Bakalyar, Merlyn Rossow, Keith Kolander, dealing with health issues

Marla Holcomb, sister of Wade and Alan Salzwedel; Mary Beth Baumann, sister-in-law of Myleen Swanson & LaNell Rossow; Mackenzie Erickson, friend of Amber Liepold; Diane Hansen, wife of Pastor David McDonald (Trinity Brewster), Miles Ramsey, toddler cousin of Amy Altman; Pastor Dennis Brech; Joyce Urmie, sister-in-law of Vickie Baumann; Pastor Ben Rucker; Mitch Voehl, son of Lila Voehl; Denny Daberkow; dealing with cancer

Jeff Lillquist, friend of Bruce and Jan Bakalar; Chad Kolander, brother of Keith and Corey Kolande; David Morrison, brother of Jan Bakalyar; Curt Gates, brother-in-law of Miles Voehl (Lila's son), dealing with health issues

Our Missionaries in the Field Our Country and Our Military

**WE THANK** Rev. Duane Miesner for leading us in our worship service today as Pastor Obermann is spending the holiday with his family out of state.

**WE WELCOME** all of our guests and visitors today. We invite you to visit us again. If you have no church home and would like to make Immanuel your church home, please speak to Pastor Obermann or one of the Elders at the end of the service.

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE** you may call the church office at 507-662-5718, Pastor Obermann at 563-321-0032, or speak to one of the elders.

#### 2026 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Board of Elders: Jim Berkevich, Shane Rossow, Luke Henning, Steve Matasovsky, Joel Poppe

Board of Education: Jonah Dagel, Brandon Laabs. Justin Scholten, Leann Henning, Deb Jons, Lori Henning

Board of Finance: Ron Gettler, Debbi Gettler, Joel Burmeister, Tara Boogerd, Cheryl Ulferts, Josh Swanson

Board of Trustees: Jeff Frantsen, Mark Freking, Austin Rossow, Andrew T. Rossow, Clay Salzwedel, Albert Henning

Board of Congregational Services: Monette Berkevich, Lola Gunther, Dellynne Monson, Danielle Rossow, Beth Carlson, Dory Poppe Congregational Chairman: Kurt Swanson Congregational Secretary: Kerry Sydnes

**THANK YOU** to our outgoing Officers for their many hours of dedicated work during their term of office. Your support and help are very much appreciated, especially by the staff of Immanuel. Thank you to:

Travis Dennis Rossow: Trustee
Jesse Ackermann: Finance

Sarah Laabs: Congregational Services Tim Timko: Congregational Services

**LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH:** Please keep the men and women you have entrusted to lead our congregation in your prayers as they serve in the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in their official capacity as an officer or board member.

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS** will take place on Sunday, January 14th. All incoming and continuing officers are asked to take part. A name tag may be found in the narthex for you. You may sit with your family until asked to come forward.

**CHALLENGE FROM THE FINANCE BOARD:** The Christmas in July Service is always a special service for our congregation. We sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns, worship outside in our Lord's creation, and gather together afterwards for a meal. At this service we also get the opportunity to show support for our school with gifts toward the Teacher Salary Fund. The gifts towards this crucial mission go towards providing payroll to our outstanding faculty who teach the young students of Immanuel to grow in Christ. The end of this school year marked our 126th anniversary. As a gift to ensure that the mission of the school in Immanuel is as eternal as God's love, let us challenge ourselves to give 12.6% of our salaries and benefits of - \$69,074 school faculty in the amount of \$69,074 as a special giving project. There has - \$60,000 been an anonymous donor who has gifted \$25,000 to \$63,625 this fund leaving a

12/21 remaining balance of - \$45,000 \$44,074. Please consider making a gift above and beyond your normal offering. There will be a tracking thermometer in - \$30,000 the Narthex to follow along with as we work towards this goal along plus this Christmas tree in the bulletin. - \$15,000 Don't forget to mark your offering envelopes "TSF or Teacher Salary Fund" when giving.

**FOOD DRIVE** for the Lakefield Food Shelf is going on right now. You are invited to bring items to the church and place them around the tree in the narthex. Your items may also be taken to Maynard's. Monetary gifts are also appreciated and can be dropped off here at the church (give to Amy), at City Hall, or mailed to the Lakefield Food Shelf, PO Box 115, Lakefield, MN 56150.

- \$0

**OUR PRAYERS** are with those who have lost loved ones over the past year as they spend their first Christmas without their loved ones.

**ANNUAL REPORTS:** December is here and January is right around the corner. Amy would appreciate having the reports in the church office by January 10th. Thank you!

PORTALS OF PRAYER for January through March are now available on the welcome center in the narthex in both regular and large print. Please help yourself to a copy. Did you know that Portals of Prayer are also available in digital format through an app? Cost is \$9.99 for the year. Not only can you read the daily devotion in whatever size print you like, but an audio option is also available. You also have access to over 10 years Portals of Prayer archives. Meaningful daily and special occasion prayers can also be found on the app. If you're interested go to the app store and search for Portals of Prayer.

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

- First day back from Christmas break is Monday 1/5
- Chess Club starts on Monday 1/8
- Wild Compass Environmental Ed is Wednesday 1/7 from 2:15-3:45 for 3rd-6th grade students
- PTL (Parent Teacher League) meets Thursday 1/8 at 6:00
- Upcoming Basketball
  - O Tuesday 1/6 @ 4:15: B away at St. John Vianney Fairmont
  - o Friday 1/9 @ 4:00: A & B home vs. MCLA

Wondering where you can watch this service?

- 1. Facebook: "Immanuel Lutheran Church" at the time of the service or any time after up to a month.
- 2. YouTube: "Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Lakefield" at the time of the service or any time after.

#### THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL...

Sunday, December 28

9:00 AM Worship

Monday, December 29

NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, December 30

NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

NO SCHOOL

**OFFICES CLOSED** 

Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day

NO SCHOOL

**OFFICES CLOSED** 

Friday, January 2

NO SCHOOL

Sunday, January 4

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Bible Class

10:15 AM Youth Group Bible Study

Tuesday, January 6

4:15 PM BBB away at St. John Vianney Fairmont

Wednesday, January 7

8:20 AM Chapel

2:15 PM Wild Compass Environmental Ed – grades 3-6

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School 604 Bush Street, PO Box 750, Lakefield, MN 56150 507-662-5718

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