

*The Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
*A Service with the Children's Christmas Pageant*  
*December 22, 2024*



THE TWASES OF  
CHRISTMAS

# Immanuel Lutheran Church



*Making known by Word and Action  
The Healing Presence of God  
And Christ Jesus  
With us and with the world*



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When we celebrate Holy Communion we are eating and drinking the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins. Because the Bible says it is possible for someone to eat and drink to their harm if their understanding of the sacrament is lacking, we ask our visitors to speak with our Pastor before communing here for the first time. Ask an usher to help you find our Pastor before the service begins, or call during the week.



**WELCOME** to all guests and members; we are glad that you are here to worship with us and hope you will return often as *our friends in Christ!*

**PRELUDE** – *“The First Noel”*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN** – *“O Come, Little Children”*

- 1 O come, little children, O come one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small,  
God’s Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.
- 2 He’s born in a stable for you and for me,  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see.  
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels the heavenly Child.
- 3 See Mary and Joseph, with love beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.

***Please stand...***

**INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES**

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

**C** Amen.

**P** The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

**C** O, come, O, come, Emmanuel.

**P** An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

**C** O, come, O, come, Emmanuel.

**P** Jesus said, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**C** O, come, O, come, Emmanuel.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**P** The ancient Church called this last Sunday before the Holy Nativity the Preparation. “Let the earth open and bring forth salvation!” “Stir up Thy power and come!” “The Lord is at hand!” “The Lord is nigh!” “There standeth one among you.” Through preparation we are led to the deeper truth of preparation by Christ himself. The inward and spiritual presence of Christ is needed if we are to be ready for the commemoration of His outward and visible coming.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray: O Lord Jesus Christ, our true peace who comes into the world to give peace to everyone, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 5

**LSB 357**

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav’nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## INTROIT

**P** My soul magnifies the Lord,

**C** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**P** My mouth derides my enemies,

**C** because I rejoice in your salvation.

**P** There is none holy like the LORD;

**C** there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

**P** The barren has borne seven,

**C** but she who has many children is forlorn.

**P** The LORD kills and brings to life;

**C** he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

**P** The LORD makes poor and makes rich;

**C** he brings low and he exalts.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. 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** A - men.

*Please be seated...*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**L** The Old Testament Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is from Micah, chapter five.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### EPISTLE READING

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

**L** The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter ten.

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” <sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand...*

## ALLELUIA



☐ Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 1:39-45**

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Please be seated for the Children’s Christmas Pageant...*

# THE TWASES OF CHRISTMAS

## TWAS YEARS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Twass years before Christmas, 700 or so,  
when Isaiah, God's prophet, sat down and wrote  
one of the messages God had him say.  
He told what would happen the first Christmas Day.

*Reading – Isaiah 7:14*

*Reading – Isaiah 9:6*



Other prophets, like Micah, foretold,  
more truths about Jesus, which God let them know.  
And ev'ry prediction, God's prophets had made,  
each one came true, including the place.

*Reading – Micah 5:2*

**HYMN – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

*Hannah Christensen – verse 1*

*Congregation – verses 4 & 6*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,<br/>Free them from Satan’s tyranny<br/>That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,<br/>And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. Refrain</b>      | <b>Refrain<br/>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b> |
| <b>6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,<br/>And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;<br/>Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br/>And death’s dark shadows put to flight. Refrain</b> |   |

## **TWAS MONTHS BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

Twas months before Christmas when a young lady saw,  
an angel who brought her a message from God.  
The young lady named Mary couldn't believe,  
the news from the angel she was about to receive.

*Reading – Luke 1:26-38*

Twas months before Christmas when an angel did speak,  
to Joseph, who was nervous, while he had a dream.  
The angel said it's alright, wed Mary as planned,  
and Joseph did what we all should, he obeyed God's command.

*Reading – Matthew 1:18-25*

## **TWAS A WHILE BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

Twas a while before Christmas when the emperor said,  
let's count all the people - see what number we get.  
So a census was called, meaning Joseph and Mary  
had to travel to Bethlehem where she'd have her baby.

Reading – Luke 2:3-5

**HYMN** – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*Eli Mann – verse 1*

*Congregation – verses 2 & 3*

**2** For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

**3** How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.



Reading – Luke 2:6-7

**CHILDREN SING** – “Away in a Manger”

## TWAS THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS

Twass the very first Christmas, the Son of God’s birth,  
and the angels got busy, out spreading the word.  
They appeared to some shepherds and scared them a bit,  
said the Savior’s been born, and where they’d find him.

Reading – Luke 2:9-14

**HYMN** – “Silent Night”

*Stille Nacht – Hannah Christensen, Jamie Yonkers*

*Children – verse 1*

*Congregation – verses 2 & 3*





**2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*Reading – Luke 2:15-18*

**HYMN – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

*Kinley and Brayson Pratt – verse 1*

*Congregation – verse 2*

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

## **TWAS MONTHS AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Twass months after Christmas when the Wise Men arrived.  
They followed a star for a very long time.  
They came to the house where Jesus now lived,  
where they bowed down and worshipped and gave gifts to him.

*Reading – Matthew 2:9-11*

**HYMN – “We Three Kings”**

**1 We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star.**

**Refrain**

**O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**



**2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign  
Refrain**

**Refrain  
O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

**3 Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all men raising  
Worship Him, God most high  
Refrain**

## **TWAS YEARS AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Twos years after the first Christmas, 30 or so,  
when Jesus, now grown up, sat down and spoke  
these words to His followers, about who He was,  
Our Savior, our Shepherd, God's one and only Son.

*Reading – John 14:6*

Just little time later, He died on a cross.  
He'd came here to seek and to save those who are lost.  
If you will ask Him to forgive all your sins,  
He will do it, He'll save you, then in you He'll live.

*Reading – Romans 10:9*

### **CHILDREN WITH BELLS – “Celebrate, Celebrate”**

This night before Christmas, all through your house,  
we pray you'll be talking and thinking about  
not just the presents under a tree,  
but the baby who was born to save you and me.  
And hope you'll remember when we drive out of sight  
to fill up this Christmas with the Lord Jesus Christ.



## HYMN – “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Kinley Pratt and Kaden Showers – verse 1*

*Congregation – verses 2 & 3*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior’s birth.  
Refrain

Refrain  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.  
Refrain

*All children in the congregation are invited to come forward...*

**CHILDREN SING & PLAY BELLS** – “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

*Please stand...*

## THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*We pray for the hospitalized this week:* Myra Greazer, Gail Garner’s mother

*We pray for the family and friends of those who died:* Richard Kochvar

*We pray for strength and healing for:* Rosemary Burmeister, Larry Pasquale, Larry Fredericks, Leslie Van Camp Stone, Del Krueger, Margie Souza, Dan Rull, Darlene Collins, Paul Teegarden, Earl Lackey, Dan Burmeister, Richard Wahlfeldt, Heather Christensen, Martha Elliott, Angie Lucas, Charlotte Schendel, Walter Harbison, Jim Souza, Gregg Sacotnik, Joyce Owens, Linda Grinestaff, Jason Toms, Gabby Reynolds, Rodger Burgin, Toby Ceader, Sarah Koester, Tom Reese, Dottie Kliner, Mary Seifrig, Bruce Garrison, Carol Schafer, Tamara Fisher, Marilina Hutchison, Sarah & Patty Calderon, Heather Bladel & family, Keri Blankenbeckler, Jason Dawson, Judy Berg, Mike and Linda Borgwald, Eric Wittmann, Kathy Howey, and Frank Hutnicke.

## OFFERING / SOLO

*“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”*      *Jamie Yonkers, French Horn*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“What Child Is This”*

**LSB 370**

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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

**P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

**C** **with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness, to all generations.**

**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 peace.



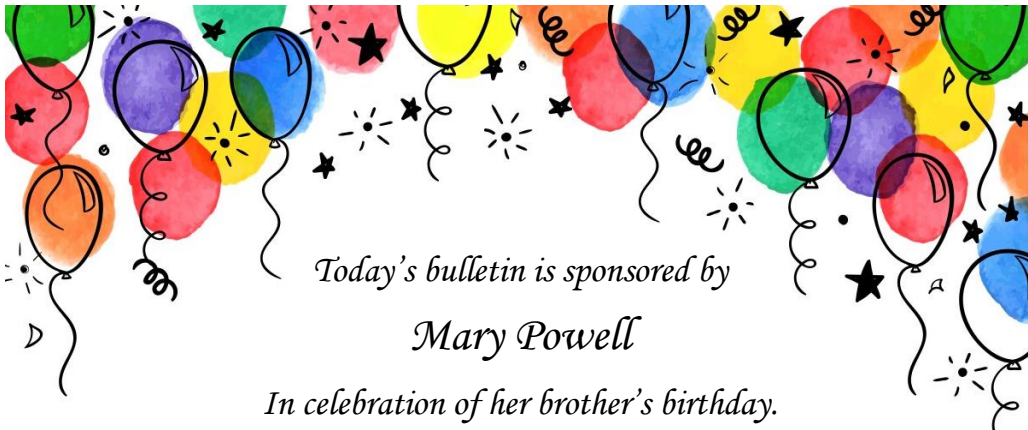
**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## CLOSING HYMN

*“Joy to the World”*

**LSB 387**

*Children – verse 1, Congregation – Verses 2 – 4*



*Today's bulletin is sponsored by*

*Mary Powell*

*In celebration of her brother's birthday.*

*happy birthday!*