

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. *1 Peter 2:9*



the voice of one
crying out in the
wilderness

December 4, 2022
10:30 a.m.



AS WE GATHER

For many Christian people, reading the Word of our Lord from a “red letter” edition of the Bible is a special blessing. Seeing the words of Christ highlighted in a special color may make them more immediate and noticeable. The last sentence with red words in those Bible editions is Revelation 22:20, in which the Lord promises: “Surely I am coming soon.” John, the writer of Revelation, follows with these inspired words: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” Those words became part of the worship life for many in the Early Church as they expectantly awaited the return of the Lord to the earth and the completion of His promised eternal kingdom. In the season of Advent, we echo that ancient yearning cry: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

As You Worship with Us.

- **Assisted Listening Devices** are also available from an Elder or Usher.
- **If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion but would like a blessing, simply come forward during the distribution, cross your arms when you approach the Pastor and he will speak a blessing.**
- **Holy Communion** *is offered to those who have been instructed in what the Scriptures teach about Communion. We believe the Bible teaches:*
 - 1) *Jesus Christ is our only Lord and Savior from all sin, death, and the power of evil;*
 - 2) *The Risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and that with the bread and wine we receive His Body and Blood; and*
 - 3) *We resolve to dedicate our lives to the service of our Lord in His Body, the Church, through worship, sacrificial giving, and thankful living.*
- **Non-alcoholic wine is available for those who prefer this substitute. Gluten-free communion wafers are also available. Please inform the pastor of your preference when you approach.**



+ GATHERING +

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

(Redmon, Weaver)

CALLING ON GOD’S NAME

SPEAKING GOD'S WORD TO ONE ANOTHER

Psalm 80:1, 3, 14a, 17; 40:1, 3a

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

People: **Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Pastor: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see.

People: **But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand, the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself!**

Pastor: I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry.

People: **He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**

SEEKING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

Pastor: O God, our Father, You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

People: **Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. We acknowledge our sinful nature and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and deed. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in + peace.

People: **Amen.**

During the singing of the hymn, two candles on the Advent wreath are lighted.

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357 Sts. 1, 3

+ HEARING GOD'S WORD +

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1–10

(A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse.)

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4–13

(Paul points to Christ as the source of hope.)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1–12

(John the Baptist preached in the wilderness.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Messiah”

(Battistelli, Pardo, Reed)

SERMON

“Are we There Yet”

Pastor Donald

CREED

The Second Article

Pastor: In the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed, echoing the proclamation of John the Baptist, we confess Jesus to be the Savior, the One who fulfills God’s promises.

People: 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.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: 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.

TALKING WITH GOD

(Text your prayer to 224-801-2902)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

(Gifts for the Mission and Ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School are received.)

(Want to give online? Text IMMANUELGIVE to #77977)

(Download Our Mobile App – God With Us)

LORD’S PRAYER

(forgive us our sins...)

LEAVING WITH A BLESSING

Numbers 6:24–26

SENDING SONG

“All the Poor and Powerless”

(Leonard, Jordan)

Bob Rising, Praise Team Director

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Immanuel Lutheran Church 200 N. Plum Grove Rd, Palatine, IL 60067
Church: 847.359.1549 School: 847.359.1936 immanuelpalatine.org