Welcome to Worship - Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 26, 2021
First Sunday of Christmas

Immanuel Lutheran Church + 867 North Pleasant Street + Amherst, Massachusetts
413.549.0322 + immanuel-amherst.org
GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Confession and Forgiveness
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #288 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born to-day;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born to-day!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for ever more.
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ever-last-ing hall.
Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILÓ, German carol, 14th cent.
Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.
Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Let us pray.
Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

(The assembly may be seated.)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

18 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.
26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Tone

Refrain

Psalm 148:13
Psalm refrain reproduced from Psalter for Worship Year C © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.
Psalm: Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
2 Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
3 Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
4 Praise the LORD, heavens and you waters above the heavens.
5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,
6 who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. R
7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
8 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
10 wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
12 young men and maidens, old and young together. R
13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah! R

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

12 As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
The presiding minister processes to the center aisle as the acclamation is sung.

Gospel Acclamation

The Holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

41 Now every year [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” 49 He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Pastor Jeffrey

Sermon – Pastor Jeffrey
(Please stand as you are able.)

Hymn of the Day: ELW# 269 “Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in Royal David’s City

1 Once in roy-al Da-vid’s cit-y stood a low-ly cat-tle shed,
   where a moth-er laid her ba-by in a man-ger for his bed:
   Mar-y was that moth-er mild, Je-sus Christ, her lit-tle child.
   with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-i-or ho-ly.

2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
   and his shel-ter was a sta-ble, and his cra-dle was a stall;
   and he leads his chil-dren on to the place where he is gone.
   and he leads his chil-dren on to the place where he is gone.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;
   for that child so dear and gen-tle is our Lord in heav’n a-bove;
   there his chil-dren gath-er round, bright like stars, with glo-ry crowned.
   we shall see him; but in heav-en, set at God’s right hand on high;

4 Not in that poor low-ly sta-ble, with the ox-en stand-ing by,
Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

9
NICENE CREED
We believe in one God,
   the Father, the Almighty,
   maker of heaven and earth,
   of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
   the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
   God from God, Light from Light,
   true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
   he came down from heaven,
   was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
   and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
   and the life of the world to come. Amen.
THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION prayers of the people
Dotti Verheyen leads this; Pastor Jeffrey Schulz leads the final prayer.

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day (especially). Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We remember those who need your healing, love, and compassion especially Evie, Roger, Randy, Richard, Dennis, Melba, Margery, James, and Michael. We also remember those who have been called back to our heavenly home, especially Bob, Rhoda, and Regi.

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever (especially). We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please greet one another with signs of peace while remaining at a safe distance.

(The assembly is seated.)

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

While the people sing, the table is set for Holy Communion, and the offering is brought forward.

Offering Hymn: “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful” ELW 184

(Please stand as you are able.)
Offering Prayer

The assembly may stand.
Let us pray.

God with us:
You came as a baby to a manger.
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine.
Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.
LORD’S PRAYER
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

(The assembly may be seated.)
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Lamb of God

Distribution:

Those who wish to receive communion may come forward in two lines at the direction of the ushers. After receiving the bread, there will be a station on each side with wine (red) and juice (white). You may consume it where you are or take it back to your seat and consume it there. Gluten free bread is available. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Those who do not wish to receive bread and wine may come forward for a blessing. Those who are unable to come forward may speak to the usher and bread and wine will be brought to their seat.

Communion Hymn: ELW #294 “In the Bleak Midwinter”
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

*Please partake of the communion elements as the pastor says,*

*The body of Christ, given for you.*
*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*
(Please stand as you are able.)

Post Communion Blessing  
Pastor Jefffrey
The Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
For from his hand we have received grace upon grace. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer
Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING: (Pastor Jeffrey)
May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the † Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

As the post communion hymn is sung, ushers will pass baskets to collect packaging from communion.
Post Communion Hymn: ELW # 487. “What Feast of Love”
Post Communion Prayer

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING:  The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.
  Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
  Amen.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.
  Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  (Please be seated.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

Sending Hymn – ELW # 275 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep-herds, in the fields a-bid-ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa-ges, leave your con-temp-la-tions, bright-er vi-sions beam a-far;
4. All cre-a-tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa-ther, Spir-it, Son,

once you sang cre-a-tion’s sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes-si-ah’s birth:
God with us is now re-sid-ing, yon-der shines the in-fant light.
seek the great de-sire of na-tions, you have seen his na-tal star.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders:
Presiding Minister: Pastor Jeffrey Schulz
Assisting Minister: Dotty Verheyen
Communion Assistants: Kathy Carlson, Dotty Verheyen
Readers: Lorine Timmermann, Kathy Carlson
Ushers: Howard Nicholson, June Daehler
Greeter: Bea Clark
Acolyte: Dennis Walker
Altar Guild: Yvonne Nicholson, Christa Keefe
Organist: Colleen Harris

One license # 720726-A

Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, All Creation Sings, and sundaysandseasons.com © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission.