Welcome to Worship - Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Second Sunday of Christmas, January 2, 2022
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 # 287 Let All Together Praise Our God
Let All Together Praise Our God

1 Let all together praise our God before the highest throne; today God opens heav’n again and sends the only Son, and you take our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.

2 From God’s right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small, and lies in poverty, his bed a manager in a stall, a servant’s garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.

3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might; a servant’s garb now wraps the one who lul-la-by, while angels, hailing David’s heir, your glory magnify, your glory magnify.

4 Your mother feeds you tenderly, sings you a

5 A wonderful exchange you make: sends the only Son, and manager in a stall, a manager in a stall.

6 Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; the angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version
Music: Lobe Gott, Ihr Christen, Nikolaus Herman
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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.
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.
Let us pray.
Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

(The assembly may be seated.)
Thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

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

Psalm Refrain

Psalm 147:12
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Psalm Tone

Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.
God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.
God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God’s cold?
The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.
The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God’s judgments.
Hallelujah!
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

(Please stand as you are able)
Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Gospel: John 1:1-9 10-18
The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4] in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

[6] There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7] He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. [8] He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. [9] The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

[10] He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. [11] He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. [12] But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

[14] And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. [15] (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) [16] From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. [17] The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [18] No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

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

(The assembly may be seated.)
Sermon – Pastor Jeffrey Schulz

(Please stand as you are able.)
Hymn of the Day: ELW #299 Cold December Flies Away
Cold December Flies Away

1 Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor.
2 In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.

April’s crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders
All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed in sleeping.
In the lily’s purest flow’r dwells a wondrous fragrance.

At the holy unseen pow’r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold-en
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its

flow’r. On the bless-ed tree blooms the red-dest flow’r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un-end-ing joy, brings the end-less joy of our hope, high-est
birth; and its beau-ty lives. In the flow’r it lives, in the flow’r, and it

rose here in love’s own gar-den, full and strong in glo-ry.
hope, of our hope’s bright dawm-ing, Son be-lov’d of heav-en.
spreads in its heav’n-ly bright-ness sweet per-fume de-light-ful.
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;
his suffering 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
Jon Niedzielski leads the prayers; Pastor Jeffrey 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 make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need (especially). Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities (especially). As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. 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.

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service (especially Wilhelm Loehe, whom we commemorate today). Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. 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.)

Choir Anthem “Jesus Christ our Saviour is Born” arr. Philip Gordon

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
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 our 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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
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.**
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Distribution
(The assembly may be seated.)

Those who wish to receive communion may come forward in two lines at the direction of the ushers. If present, the choir will commune first. 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 an usher and bread and wine will be brought to their seat.

Lamb of God

Communion Hymns

ELW # 510  Word of God, Come Down to Earth
Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav’n descending;
   touch our hearts and bring to birth life creation, Word that came from heav’n to die,
   yond all telling, Word that sends us from above faith and hope and love unending, Word almighty,
   crucified for our salvation, saving Word, the God the Spirit, with us dwelling, Word of truth, to we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
   world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring, all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, b. 1919
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND Hier, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

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ELW # 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Post Communion Blessing  Pastor Jeffrey

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.
Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

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.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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.
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
(Please be seated.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

Sending Hymn – ELW # 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o’er si- lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a-bove the earth
3. Down in a lone-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-’ry-where;
go tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born!

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rous that hailed our Sav-iors birth.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL  
Jon Niedzielski

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God’s people on earth!
As heralds of God’s peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Colleen Harris

Worship Leaders:

Presiding Minister: Rev. Jeffrey Schulz
Assisting Minister: Jon Niedzielski
Readers: Julie Brigham-Grette, Dennis Walker
Ushers: Pam Juengling, Cathy Helgoe
Greeter: Mei-Ju Hwang
Acolyte: Julianna Dettmers
Altar Guild: Julie Brigham-Grette, Christa Keefe
Organist & Choir Director: Colleen Harris


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