



# IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

*Authentic Biblical Christianity*

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**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2025**

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**Pastor:** Rev. Gary Brown

**Lay Reader:** George McGuire

**Ushers:** Sam Thorington and Lawrence Boutte

**Musicians:** Francie Callahan, Ken Mette, Debbie Dinkel

**Greeters:** Darlene Oetgen & Julie Berger

**Altar Guild:** Anita Brt    **Acolyte:** Ashlynn Starnes

Immanuel is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe that the Bible is God's very own Word. It is inerrant, infallible, and Authoritative for life and faith. It offers everyone forgiveness of Sin and Life Everlasting through Jesus Christ. It is He of whom the Scriptures testify. Because it is a living Word, God Himself will be the one speaking to you today through Word and Sacrament.

Welcome to all our GUESTS AND VISITORS. It is our pleasure and honor to have you worship with us this evening. If you do not have a regular place of worship – WELCOME HOME! Please fill out a Welcome card, found in the slot on the chair back in front of you and give it to an Usher or the Pastor.

A CRY ROOM is available in the back of the Sanctuary for use by parents or anyone for whom it is needed.



# CHRISTMAS EVE 2025

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**Pre-Service Music for quiet meditation and prayer**

**Pastor's Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn ... 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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*Please stand*

## Invocation

Matt 28:19

**P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

John 1:14

**P** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**C** and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**P** Declare His glory among the nations,

Psalm 96:3

**C** His marvelous works among all the peoples!

**P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

Psalm 98:1

**C** His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

## Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9

**P** Joined in worship on this holy night, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

*Please remain silent for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

**P** Almighty Father,

**C** we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We have not always given You the best of what we have and are, and have not fully made room for You in our lives. With repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** With joy I announce God's Good News to You. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you and to rise again in glory. For His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be at peace and rejoice in the Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**P** Throughout the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. Tonight, we light the Christ candle to proclaim the birth of the Savior of the world.

**P** Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

**C We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

**C We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.

**C We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rejoice.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the Lord of love.

**C We wait for the Lord, and in His Word His love finds us.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.

**C Tonight we celebrate His birth, the Living Word has come.**

## Hymn of Praise - 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph-ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You, give us reason to rejoice by making light to shine in the darkness of our hearts.

**C** Grant that we joyfully receive the One who is the light of the world this Christmas, that with sure confidence we see Him when He returns as our Judge;

**P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10

*The Reading can be found on page 13 of this bulletin*

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle – Hebrews 1:1-6

*The Reading can be found on page 13 of this bulletin*

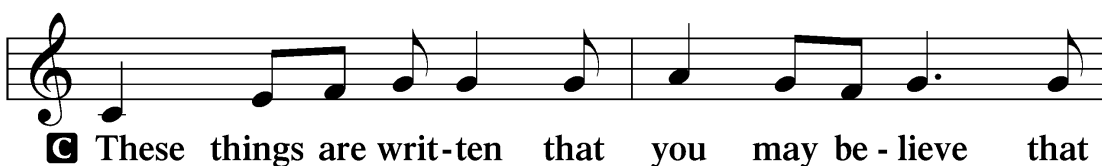
**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

John 20:31



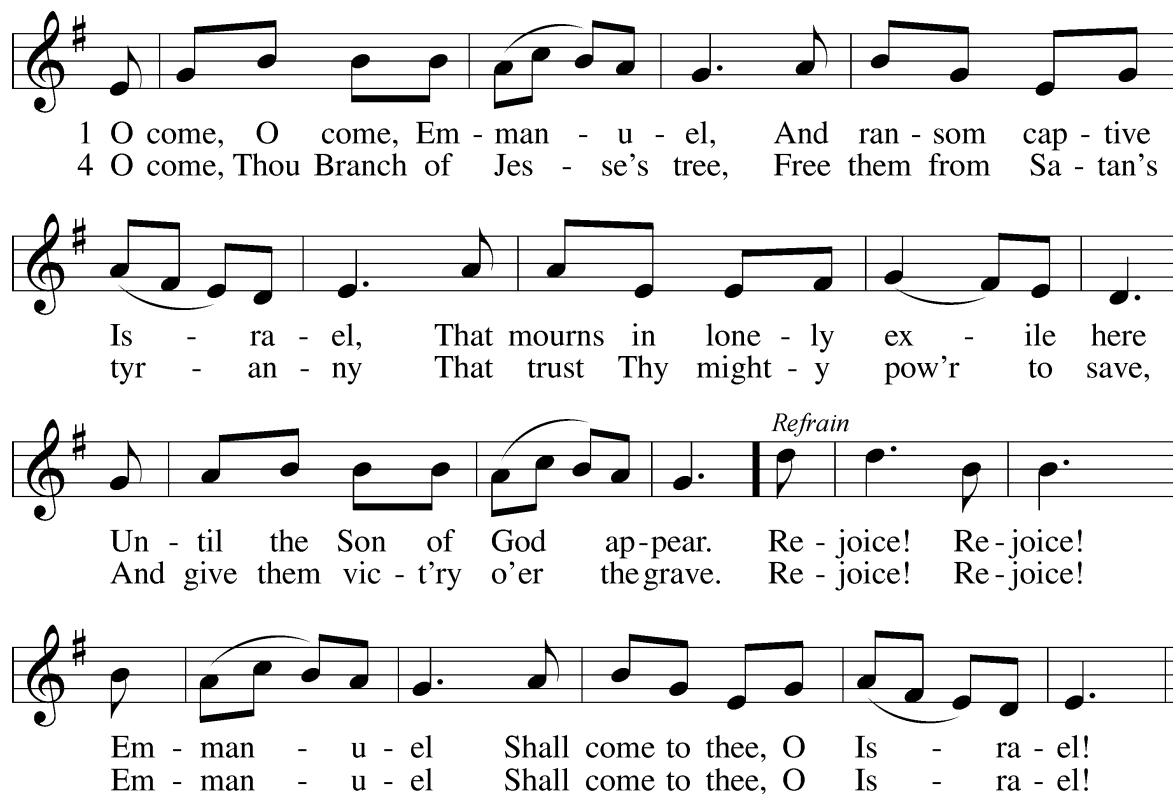
## Gospel – John 1:1-14

*The Reading can be found on page 13 of this bulletin*

**A** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Glory to you O Lord.

## Meditation Hymn - 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,

*Refrain*  
Un - til the Son of God ap-pear. Re - joice! Re-joyce!  
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re-joyce!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*Please be seated*

## Homily

### Hymn - 364 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

*Please stand*

## Prayers

- P** This Christmas Eve, we come before our Lord in prayer rejoicing, "for to us a child is born, to us a son is given." Lord, as we hear the angels' words, "Fear not," let us take their admonishment to heart. In the face of fears and anxiety,

grant us peace in the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

**C Christ the Lord!**

**P** Lord, You chose Mary and Joseph to care for Your Son. Bless all those with whom You have given the vocation of mother or father, grandmother or grandfather that they care for the children entrusted into their care, sharing with them the Savior born to us. O come, let us adore Him,

**C Christ the Lord!**

**P** To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, continue to watch over those who suffer in body and spirit. Grant healing and restoration from affliction according to Your gracious will. Give peace in difficulty through the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

**C Christ the Lord!**

**P** "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace of the increase of His Government and of peace there shall be no end." It is in His name we pray;

**C Amen.**

*As the Christmas Carol is sung the candles will be lit throughout the Sanctuary.*

*Sanctuary lights are turned off*

### **Candle lighting Hymn... 370 What Child Is This**



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
 shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the  
 Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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## Lord's Prayer

**P** Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and as He Himself has taught us:

**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.**

## Benedicamus and Benediction

2 Timothy 4:22

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

## Closing Hymn - 363 Silent Night, Holy Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God by Dixie Billings in remembrance of her mom who passed away on Christmas Day 1990.



TO BE CONTINUED.....

**Join us tomorrow at our 10am SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS.**

**With communion.**

**Thursday 12/25/2025 10AM**

### **Isaiah 52:7–10**

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### **Hebrews 1:1–6**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

### **John 1:1–14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.