



December 16, 2020 4:30 & 7:00 pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church Seymour, IN

Welcome to Worship! Have you ever stopped to consider how many promises we make a day? Have you ever considered how many promises we break a day? We human beings are promises makers and promise breakers! Our God, though, is a God who keeps his promises in Jesus. More than that, God makes enormous promises, but also gets magnificent results. In our readings from Isaiah and Luke, we are assured that Jesus, God's anointed Son, proclaims to us good news that is more than a promise today and always. Jesus comes to set you free. Jesus comes to build you up. And Jesus comes to clothe you with His glory. Thanks be to God for that!

+++ The Service of Prayer and Preaching, Page 260 +++
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THE PRELUDE: 4:30: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - Cynthia Dobrinski

7:00: "Once He Came in Blessing" - J. Leavitt

THE HYMN: "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

Hymn 353

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

THE OPENING VERSES: page 260 (Advent verse)

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
L Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
C **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**
L Prepare the way of the Lord.
C **Make His paths straight.**
L Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
C **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**
L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1-4

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance

of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion – to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+++ THE ANTHEM: 4:30: "Great "O" Antiphons"

THE EPISTLE READING: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L: This the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:16-21

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT, page 263

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

THE LORD'S PRAYER, page 264

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 HYMN: "Let the Earth Now Praise The Lord"

Hymn 352

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

2 What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord –
Him of twofold race behold – Truly came, as long foretold.

- 4 As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

THE SERMON: "Good News That is More Than a Promise"

THE PRAYERS, page 265

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER, page 266

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

THE BLESSING, page 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN: "Joy to the World"

Hymn 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

THE POSTLUDE: "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow" – J.G. Walther

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Preacher: Vicar Fredstrom **Liturgists:** Pastor Blomenberg and Pastor Bloch

Lector: Pastor Rodriguez **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

Special Music: 4:30: 7th and 8th Grade Bells and Youth Choir

Advent 3 "Good News that is More than a Promise" Wednesday, December 16

4:30 pm - Audio: Jay Hubbard

7:00 pm - Acolyte: Maddy Woods **Ushers:** Kurt Fenneberg, Brent Kilgas, Ben Thompson, Brian Burbrink, Baron Bullard, Dale Von Dielingen, Greg Wehmiller, Roger Wehmiller, Mitchell Kilgas, Will Borcharding, Dustin Nichols, Tony Combs, Gary Schneider, Jay Hubbard, Daniel Luecke, Jed Strange

Counting: Jerrell Hubbard, Max Siefker, Kyle Stanfield, Rick Zschiedrich, Greg Prange, Grant Hubbard

Audio: Kevin Foster

Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.

Wednesday Advent Series: "Advent—A Time of Hope and Healing" is the special Advent worship series for our Wednesday evening services at 4:30 and 7:00 p.m. It seeks to apply words from Isaiah that sound like they were written for this very time.

- Dec. 23: "God's Global Plan for Justice"

Advent Activities Between Services:

"**Hope and Healing Activity Kits**" for the children to come pick up in between the 4:30 and 7 pm Midweek service. This will be a "grab and go" art activity for home. The kit is designed to be fun, full of learning,

and give families with children the opportunity to share with each other, and also with a friend or neighbor, the love of Christ during the season of Advent.

Grab and Go Cookies! Immanuel's youth will be serving delicious cookies from 5-6:30 PM every Wednesday in Advent (December 2, 9, & 16, 2020). Just swing through the Fellowship Hall, pick up your individually wrapped cookies and a cup of your favorite beverage (fruit punch, coffee, milk). Free will offerings will also be accepted to help support the youth ministry of Immanuel.

Christmas Worship Opportunities:

Join us this week in person or online to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the gifts He brings to us!

- o **Christmas Eve School service** at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Due to space concerns, this is intended for children and their families.** Children with last names starting with A-L will lead the service at 4:30; M-Z at 6:00. Both services will be streamed on our website.
- o **Candlelight Communion** at 10:30 p.m. We plan to have overflow seating, if needed, in the Fellowship Hall.
- o **Christmas Day Communion** at 9:00 a.m.