

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020 – 7:00 pm Candlelight

The Old Story ...The Child, the Mother, the Shepherds, the Stars, the Angels...Once more shall I remember them as remembering of a forgotten thing or a song whose words have become faint. The hills which stood ready in silent obedience from the moment of their creation. The manger which was to become the haunt of the world's devotion. The cry of the Child, the beginning of the last plea for a guilty race. This is the story. (O.P. Kretzman)

- P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C: **The light no darkness can overcome.**
P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening.
C: **And the day is almost over.**
P: Let your light scatter the darkness.
C: **And illumine your church.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

Choir and Congregation

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come, ye, O come, ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,
O come, let us adore Him, O Come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING – Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-22

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

C: And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

P: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.

C: But the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.

P: Nations will come to your light.

C: And kings to the brightness of your dawn.

P: The sun will no more be your light by day.

C: Nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,

P: for the Lord will be our everlasting light,

C: And your God will be your glory.

P: Your sun will never set again,

C: And your moon will wane no more;

P: the Lord will be your everlasting light,
C: **And your days of sorrow will end.**
P: Then will all your people be righteous
C: **And they will possess the land forever.**
P: They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands,
C: **For the display of my splendor.**
P: The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation.
C: **I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly.**

Special Music: "Lo', a Rose E'er Blooming"

Solo-Michaela Farnsworth

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

¹⁷ The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven’s all gracious King;
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav’nly music floats, O’er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds,
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! The days are hast’ning on, By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years, Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heav’n and earth shall own,
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

GRADUAL

ALL To us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulder. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.

Special Music: “O Holy Night” *Solo- Jackson Hamilton*

EPISTLE READING – 1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P: This is the word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN – “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored.
Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come,
Off-spring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell!
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He leaves His throne on high,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

GOSPEL READING

P: The Holy Gospel is written in the 1st chapter of St. Matthew beginning at the 18th verse.

C: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the Prophets.

C: **But now in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.**

HYMN: - #357 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Verse 1-5

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - "Son of Joseph"

APOSTLES CREED

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Special Music: “What Child is This” -

Duet by Jackson Hamilton & Michaela Farnsworth

(Please help us keep our attendance numbers accurate by filling out the attendance cards and putting in basket on the way out.)

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL – “Silent Night”

Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night! Holy Night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent Night! Holy Night! Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

CHRISTMAS COLLECT

P: Let us Pray

P: O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

BENEDICTION

C: Amen, Amen, Amen!

CLOSING HYMN – “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and Nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessing flow,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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

POSTLUDE

Holiday Service Schedule

Christmas Day

10am service —Communion

December 27th – Sunday

9am and 10am Communion

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

O Almighty God, you have made this night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, your only Son. Give us great joy in the angels' message of peace on earth and lead each of us to receive Jesus as God-with-us, our Emmanuel. This we ask for his love's sake. Amen

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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School website: www.ilsbrandon.com

Pastor

Rev. Kenneth W. Farnsworth, Pastor

Kathy Hogue – Organist / Music Director

Sunday Worship: 9am and 10am communion services until further notice

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod