

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 18, 2019



*And Mary said: “My  
soul glorifies the Lord and  
my spirit rejoices in God  
my Savior ...”*

LUKE 1:46-47, NIV

Offering will be received at both doors

## FOR YOU, TO BEAR YOUR FLESH IN WEAKNESS

The grass is always greener on the other side. So we lie to ourselves. Blinded to how blessed we are, we covet what God has given to another. We long to switch places with another whom we deem to be living the good life.

While such desires on our part reveal our sinful myopia, God does ordain a grand switch. First, He promises that the proud will be humbled and the humble will be exalted. Mary sings of this upon her pregnancy. It is a theme that is woven throughout Scripture.

There is a far grander swapping of places that occurs. Jesus humbles Himself so that you are filled with good things, even the greatest things. This is the great exchange. Jesus humbles Himself, taking on your sin along with the punishment and death it incurs. You receive His righteousness and the eternal life that it merits.

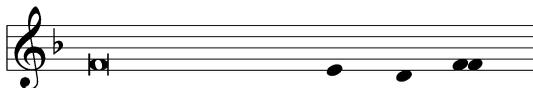
The prophets had promised it of old. Mary sees it fulfilled in her Son, so she sings:

The Savior came in meekness

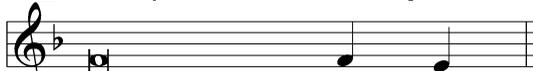
For you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.

## Service of Light

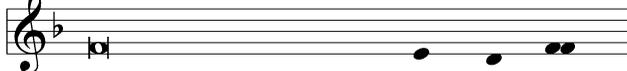
*Stand if able*



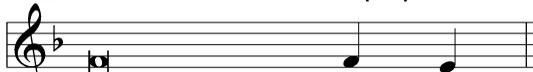
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



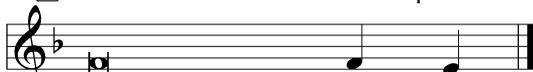
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



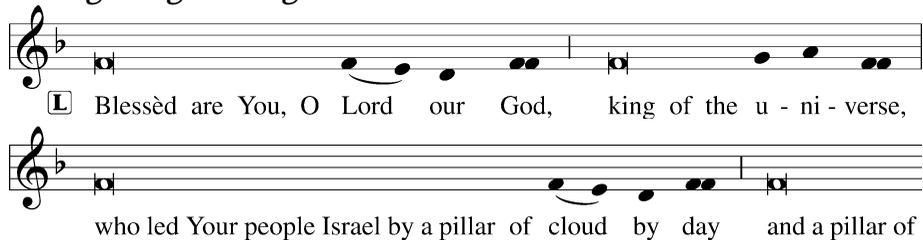
**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

## Phos Hilaron



Phos Hilaron is a hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are: Joy - ous light of glo - ry: of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light. We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for - ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life: the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

## Thanksgiving for Light



Thanksgiving for Light is a hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music. The lyrics are: Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of

fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;  
 may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
 for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion  
 and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.  
**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Psalmody

Psalm 141 (I - Men, II - Women)

*Psalm 141:1-4, 8*

**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.  
**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice  
 when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**II** Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



**I** Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;



let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.



**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in



the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.



Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

**L** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

## Psalm

*Psalm 113*

**L** Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants of the LORD,\*  
praise the name of the LORD!

- C** Blessed be the name of the LORD\*  
from this time forth and forevermore!
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,\*  
the name of the LORD is to be praised!
- C** The LORD is high above all nations,\*  
and His glory above the heavens!
- L** Who is like the LORD our God,\*  
who is seated on high,
- C** who looks far down\*  
on the heavens and the earth?
- L** He raises the poor from the dust\*  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
- C** to make them sit with princes,\*  
with the princes of His people.
- L** He gives the barren woman a home,\*  
making her the joyous mother of children.  
Praise the LORD!
- 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.

### 332 Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,

That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

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## Readings

### Old Testament Reading:

*Isaiah 66:1–2*

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 66.

Thus says the LORD:  
“Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is the place of my rest?  
All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things came to be,  
declares the LORD.  
But this is the one to whom I will look:  
he who is humble and contrite in spirit  
and trembles at my word.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle:

*James 4:6–10*

**L** A reading from James, chapter 4.

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand if able*

## Holy Gospel:

Luke 1:46–55

**L** A reading from Luke, chapter 1.

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**L** 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.**

*Sit*

Sermon

## Canticle

*Stand if able*

### 933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He  
fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion  
bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the  
ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the  
sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring  
Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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*Sit*

## Prayer

*Kneel/Sit*

### Litany

*The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*

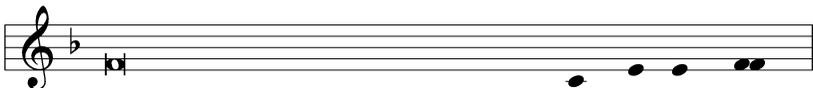
**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



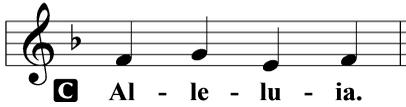
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, 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.**

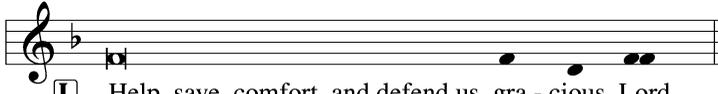
*The prayers then continue:*



- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

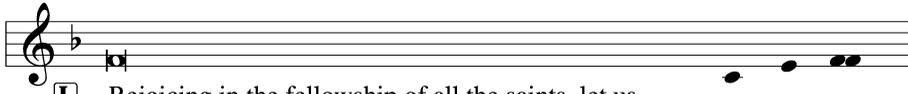


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



**C** To You, O Lord.

## Collect For Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Lord's Prayer

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

- 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.

Stand if able

## Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

## 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - ya year,  
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

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.

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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.

### Acknowledgments

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