



The Old Has Gone
THE NEW IS HERE!

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Manitowoc, Wisconsin
December 31, 2023

Welcome

Thanks for being here! We truly pray that today you find the warmth of our Christian hospitality, the powerful truth of God's Word and the peace-giving assurance of his promises. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. We hope you worship with us again!

If Immanuel Is New to You:

Relax. At Immanuel, our worship is designed to praise God and enrich faith. We aim to make the service clear and appropriately reverent. For your convenience, the service is printed for you here as well as displayed on our screens.

Bring the kids. Our congregation really loves and encourages the worshipping family! In fact, our worship will often include a children's message with little ones in mind. If your children are acting up, please know it's never a bother to our worship service. However, if you feel other worshipers could be distracted, parents who want to calm their restless child are invited to use our lobby area with screens so that you may continue your worship with us.

Restrooms are located in the lobby, just to the right of the elevator.

Make yourself at home. You don't have to rush off after the service today. Light refreshments are typically provided in our lobby after the 8:00 am service. If you are comfortable, feel free to follow up with one of our Pastors - we'd be honored if you would take the time to introduce yourself!

Don't feel obligated. Our members give financial offerings to the Lord as an expression of thanks and praise for his amazing love. Please know that you are our guests and we're simply happy you've come to hear about Jesus and his Word today. You're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

Cell phones. To remove as many distractions as possible from worshipping God today, we kindly ask that you silence your phone before the service.

Questions? If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, or have questions about our PreK thru 8th grade school, our pastors or principal would love to help. Feel free to contact them at any time (*their contact info is included on the announcement insert*). You may also browse the information counter in our lobby for magazines, brochures and devotional resources.



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN

Grateful Hearts Praise a Gracious God

Our Christmas Praise – “Joy Has Dawned”

(CW 352:1,3)

Call to Worship & Psalm 111 – A Christmas Psalm of Praise

PASTOR: On this final morning of the calendar year – we join together in the Name of the One who governs and rules all of our times and days: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit –

CONG: Amen!

Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever —
holy and awesome is his name!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

To him belongs eternal praise!



Our Christmas Praise – “Joy Has Dawned”

(CW 352:4)

God’s Word – Luke 2:25-40

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s

Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Our Profession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

(on screens)

Song of Hope – “Another Year is Dawning *(to “Jerusalem the Golden” CW 890)*

(sung) **Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting, another year with thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving thy presence all the days.**

**Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness in th’ shining of thy face;
Another year of leaning upon thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting, of quiet happy rest.**

Message from God's Word – Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Things I'd like to remember this week...

God's Word is the Big Difference Maker

(sung) **Another year of service, of witness for thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.**

Words: Francis R. Havergal, 1874, public domain.

Offerings of Thanks

"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." - 2 Corinthians 8:9



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Our Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Following Our Prayer we join to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

God's Word speaks of the spiritual blessings of this Sacrament (Mt. 26:28) and warns against the spiritual danger of being unprepared for this holy meal (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Because we deeply care about you and don't want to see anyone's faith harmed, we ask that if you have not studied or spoken with our pastors first, that you refrain from joining in the Sacrament today. We are not judging your love for Jesus but rather displaying loving caution for all involved. Please feel free to ask our pastors if you have questions. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible.

PASTOR: Dear Friends, when we all look back on the year 2023, we see the many sins we have *committed* in thought, word and deed. We also see instances where we have left God's will *undone*. Thanks be to God for his unending mercy. He has given us his Holy Supper as a means to strengthen us in his grace by physically giving us his forgiveness. Now, as we prepare to receive this powerful gift, let us confess together:

CONG: Almighty and merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not always loved you with all my heart. Again this past year, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. In what I have done, and what I have left undone – I have not loved you or others as I should. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins and please for your forgiveness, O Lord. As your Baptized child, I trust in your unfailing love!

(sung) **O Christ, the Lamb of God adored,
You bore my sin; My Savior, Lord.
In mercy, Jesus, wash away
The sins that here before me lay!**

(to "From Heaven Above" CW 331)

**O Christ, the Lamb for sinners slain,
Salvation for mankind attained.
Have mercy, Lord, and grant to me
The peace alone that comes from Thee!**



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I proclaim his gospel promise: you and I are completely and freely forgiven of all our sins – in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

(to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" CW 350)

(sung) **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain – All the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due! Be forever, Lord, to You!**

Jesus' Words Instituting His Supper

Words of Institution: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." – Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Distribution – *following our musician, the congregation is invited to sing:*

"Peace Came to Earth" (CW 330)

"The Old Year Now Has Passed Away" (CW93 71)

Our Thanksgiving (CW 332, adapted)

(sung) **Let us all with gladsome voice – Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son has given.**

**With His body and His blood, He removes sin's sadness;
Strengthened by His Supper we – live and serve in gladness!**

**Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Bless us and be near us.
Grant us now a glad new year: Amen! Jesus, hear us!**

The Closing Blessing

Closing New Year Prayer – "All Glory Be to Christ" (to Auld Lang Syne)

(see pg 8)

(sung) **Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive,
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn: all glory be to Christ.**

(refrain) **All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ.
His rule and reign we'll ever sing; all glory be to Christ!
His will be done, his kingdom come, on earth as is above;
Who is himself our daily bread, praise him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;
We'll take a cup of kindness yet. All glory be to Christ.**

(refrain) **All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ.
His rule and reign we'll ever sing; all glory be to Christ!
When on the day the great I AM, the Faithful and the True,
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making ALL THINGS NEW,
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light,
And we shall e'er his people be – all glory be to Christ!**

(refrain) **All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ.
His rule and reign we'll ever sing; all glory be to Christ!**

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Silent Prayer – *feel free to use this silent prayer of thanks*

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of rest at night and for the gift of serving you each new day. Teach me to love others as you have loved me. Help me to be more patient and alert to their needs – always ready to serve them. Bless me and my family in 2023, with your providence, protection and grace – all according to what you know is best for me. And in all I do, may I honor you. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Other personal prayers may be found on pages 255-258 in the front of your blue Hymnal.

Musician: Jason Muench

Worship Leader: Pastor Matt Zimpelmann