

**WEST IDA IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*160 Years of Serving Together*  
Sunday, December 18, 2022  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

**Welcome**

**(Congregation Response is in Bold)**

**Confession and Promise of Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever. **Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #257*

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*A Kyrie will be sung by all. (page 203)*

**Prayer of the Day**

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**The Readings for This Day**

The first reading is from **Isaiah 7:10-16**

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**The responsive reading today is Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

**The Second Reading is Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand in body or spirit for the reading of the Gospel.

***Gospel Acclamation*** (sung)

***Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.***

***Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.***

***Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.***

The holy Gospel according to **Matthew 1:18-25**

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Children's Sermon**  
**Sermon**

Hymn of the Day – **"Canticle of the Turning" #723**

**Nicene Creed** (page 104)  
**Prayers of Intercession**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Response: God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

**The Offering is Gathered**

Offertory Hymn – **"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #254**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory  
Hosanna is the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna is the highest.**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer** (sung to "Away in a Manger")

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!  
Your kingdom among us, Your presence proclaimed!  
What You want to happen, grant that it be done  
On earth as in heaven, now for everyone.  
For bread that is needed, provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, our sins take away;  
Don't bring us to testing more than we can bear,  
But save us from evil by Your loving care.  
For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the power, all things You maintain.  
To You be the glory, resounding again  
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Communion Hymn – **"Lamb of God", pg.208**  
**"Mary did You Know" ccli#839225**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Announcements*

### **Blessing**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn – “Joy to the World” #267*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near!  
**Thanks be to God.**

Serving Today:	Usher:	Paul Kraftchick
	Communion Assistant:	Mardi Ruehs
	Fellowship Hour:	MaryAnn Allyn
	Reader:	MaryAnn Allyn
Serving Christmas Eve:	Usher:	Paul Loga
	Reader:	MaryAnn Allyn
	Communion Assistant:	Mardi Ruehs
Serving Christmas Day:	Usher:	Paul Loga
	Communion Assistant:	Paul Kraftchick
	Collection Counters:	Paul Kraftchick & Kathie Kominek
	Reader:	Emily Frank

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**  
**Tuesday, December 20, 2022**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

## **Announcements**

**Advent and Christmas** offerings will benefit Oaks of Righteousness.

**Scholarship available;** Community Foundation of Monroe County, through the generous donation of Milt and Sally Knabusch, invites and encourages applications for "Milt and Sally Knabusch Ministerial and Parochial School Teacher Scholarship". This is targeted to assist individuals pursuing careers in the Lutheran churches or schools with emphasis on the ministry. Apply at [www.cfmonroe.org](http://www.cfmonroe.org). Applications should be submitted online **no later than February 21**; and winners will be notified in early April.

**Dartball Schedule:** December 19 HOME vs Prince of Peace @ 7:30 p.m.

**HUNGRY SEEKERS** will be held every second and fourth Sunday after the Children's Message.  
**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** will be held every second and fourth Sunday during Fellowship Hour.

**Blue Christmas** – Otherwise known as "Longest Night" on **December 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. We will be collecting blankets for those less fortunate.

**Christmas Eve/Christmas Day worship** -It's never too soon to put this on your calendars... Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be at 7pm; casual worship on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

**New Years' Service – January 1, 2023** will be a hymn sing with then a congregational potluck to follow to ring in the new year!

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*). God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**