

St. Paul & Immanuel Lutheran Churches Dixon, Illinois

First Sunday of Christmas, 10:00 am December 28, 2025

Lessons and Carols

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Sermon

Please rise in body or spirit

Welcome

P: The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C: Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

P: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

C: Forgive our neglect of the poor.

P: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

P: With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." In \pm Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

C: Amen.

Gathering Carol "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" ELW #275



- 1 An gels, from the realms of glo ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a bid ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa ges, leave your con tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi sions beam a far;
- 4 All cre a tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa ther, Spir it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light. seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star. ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879
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Greeting

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



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

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Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Eternal Father,

C: you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is invited to be seated.

WORD

Psalm 8

R: We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

R: O, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

C: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

R: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

C: what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

R: Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

C: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

R: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

C: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

R: O, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

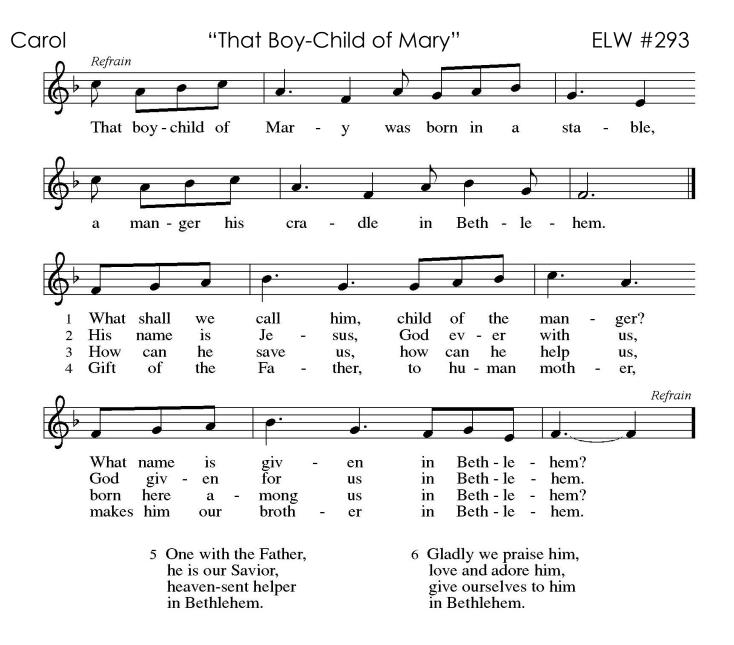
Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6

R: You will say on that day: "I will give thanks to you, O, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Response (Sung): O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Lesson: Matthew 1:18-21

R: 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000 Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Regulated by permission under CCII Annual License #1124556.

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is *Christ*, the Lord" Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

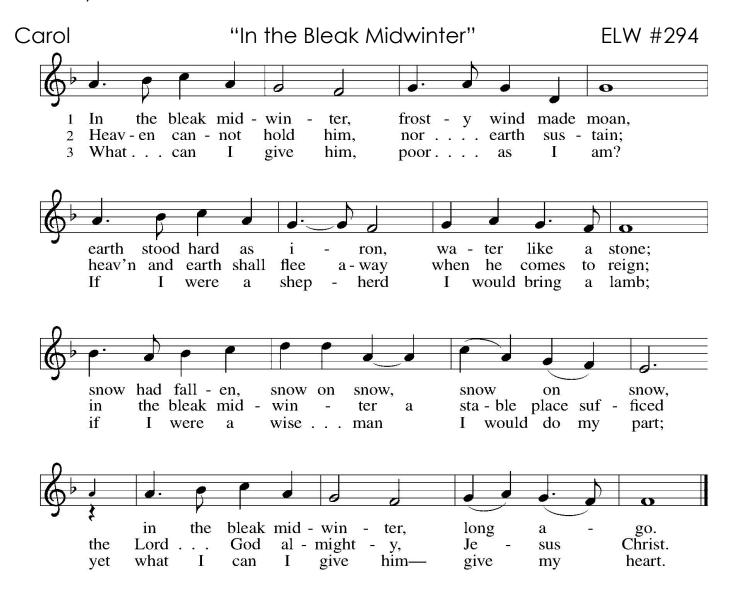
R: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will

cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Response (Sung): O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Lesson: John 1:29-34

R: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."



Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 "For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

R: In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Response (Sung): O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Lesson: Luke 1:26-35

R: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.





A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go while mor-tals sleep, the won-d'ring love. an - gels keep their watch of God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. So out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in to - day. cast us





Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

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The assembly is invited to stand

Nicene Creed

P: Together let us confess our faith in God using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,

not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for David, Dick, Carol, Jesse, Jasslyn, Gretchen, Joyce, Roger Asplund, Eva Cowley, Barb Strom, Deb Liebzeit, Chase Flynn, Connie Clayton, Bonnie Bollman, Connie Laidig, Zinnia Larson and those we name aloud or in our hearts. . . brief silence... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, we remember Glenna Switzer and Dan Oberg, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you!**Please share a sign of peace with one another

The assembly may be seated

Offering

Donations may be placed in the offering trays near each entrance. Thank you for your generosity in supporting St. Paul and Immanuel's ministries. Today's Children's Offering will be equally divided to support ELCA Good gifts (St. Paul) and ELCA World Hunger (Immanuel)

Offering Carol

"Peace Came to Earth"

ELW #285

- Peace came to earth at last that chosen night when angels clove the sky with song and light and God embodied love and sheathed his might--Who could but gasp: Immanuel!

 Who could but sing: Immanuel!
- And who could be the same for having held the infant in their arms, and later felt the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled--Who could but sigh: Immanuel! Who could but shout: Immanuel!
- You show the Father none has ever seen, in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains, in bread and wine you visit us again-- Who could but see Immanuel!
 Who could but thrill: Immanuel!
- How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could I have loved you, O my God! How else could I embrace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise Immanuel!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Text © 1984 Concordia Publishing House Reprinted by permission under CCLI Annual License #1124556

Offering Prayer

P: God of glory,

C: great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Holy Communion

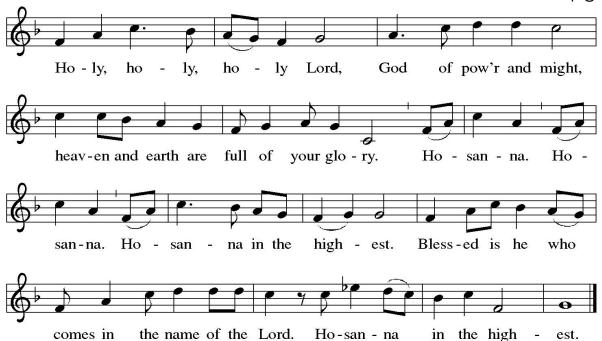
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

P: P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink

saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

The assembly may be seated

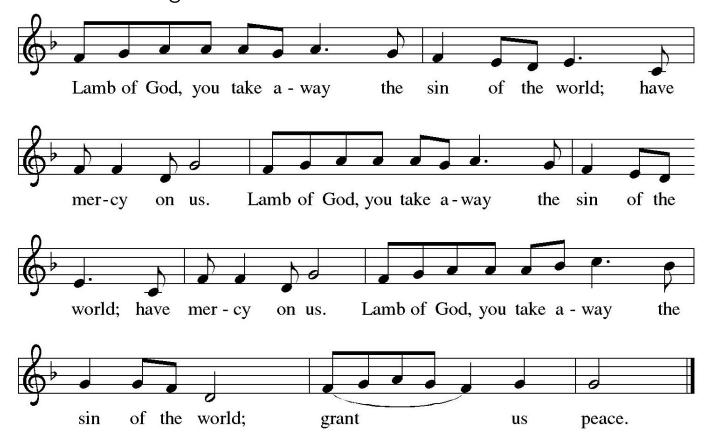
Communion Distribution

All are welcome to join in this meal. If you would like to receive communion, please come forward as others do, starting with the front. Bread is at middle station and wine and grape juice are on the side. Bread or wafers (gluten-free wafers upon request) will be given first.

After receiving the bread, move towards the tray closest to your side of the church. Baskets for the empty communion cups are by the front pew on each side of the church as you go back to your seat.

We are happy to bring communion to you in your seat after we have distributed to the lines.

Communion Songs



"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" ELW #276

- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



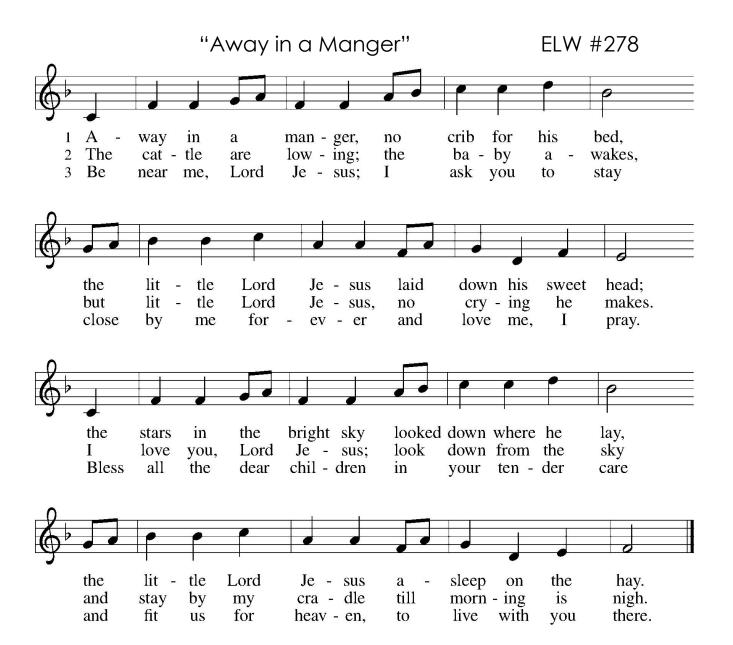
Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

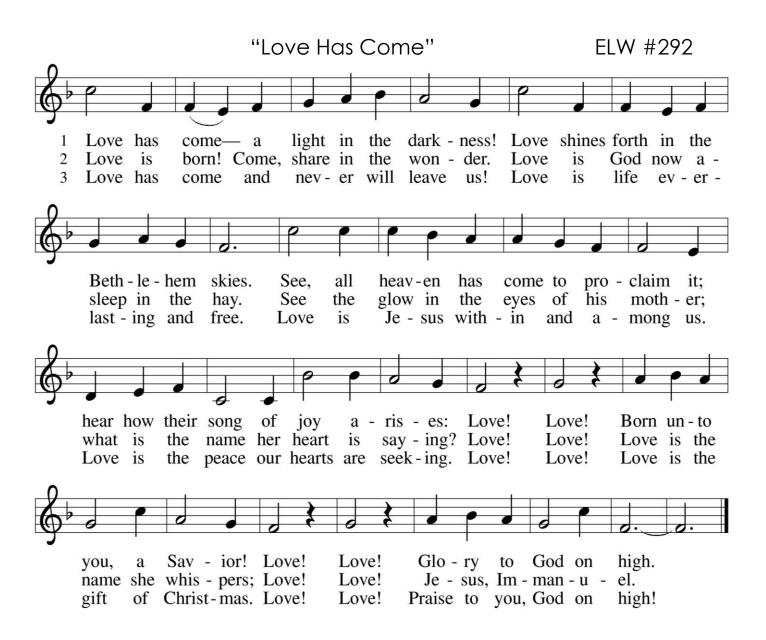
Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

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Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921 Public Domain reprinted/podcost/streamed with permission under One License #A-730141



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695. Public Domain reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under One License #A-730141

Please rise in body or spirit

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Incarnate God,

C: you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

Blessing

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever. **C: Amen.**



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord C: Thanks be to God.

Leading Worship

Musician: Gerad VonHolten Kathy Sheridan and the Praise Band **Presiding:** Pastor Riley & Pastor Anthony

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ST. PAUL WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, 12/29: Prayer Team 10:00 am Tuesday, 12/30: Line Dancing 9:00 am

Joint Staff Meeting at Immanuel 9:00 am

Praise Band rehearsal 5:00 pm

Thursday, 1/1: Church Office Closed

JOINT

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

RESUME

SUNDAY,

JANUARY 4

from 1-3 pm at ILC

Saturday, 1/3: Worship 5:30 pm at Immanuel Faith Lab 9:30 am -10:30 am

Worship 10:45 am ~ Praise Band

Today's worship is
livestreamed on
Facebook and
archived on YouTube.
If ever you miss a
service, you can join
us online!

IMMANUEL WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, 12/29: No Youth Group (resumes January 5th)

Thursday, 1/1: Church Office Closed

Saturday, 1/3: Worship 5:30 pm at Immanuel

Sunday, 1/4: Fellowship 8:00 am

Worship 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am

St. Paul Sunday School resumes January 4 with Faith Lab

Preschool through high school and adult leaders will come together to celebrate God in the beginning of a new calendar year! We'll be creating something "NEW" and throwing a party to the Glory of God! -God's mercies are new every morning- (Lamentations 3:23)

See you at Faith Lab January 4th!

Free to Be You Youth Group Is Back!

Free to Be You Youth Group resumes on January 5, 2026. We're excited to kick off the new year together—don't miss it!

Quake Parent Orientation

All parents are invited to attend the Quake Parent Orientation on January 18, 2026 at 12:00 PM at ILC. This meeting will cover

Carpool from Immanuel 10:30 am
Cost is \$10/person for McDonalds.
Sign by January 4!

important information about Quake, expectations, and upcoming events.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Riley and Pastor Anthony will be out of the office this coming week

May the Lord bless you in the coming year

