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Immanuel, Our Living Water

December 6, 2023



Second Midweek
of Advent

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

ORDER OF SERVICE: EVENING PRAYER (SERVICE OF THE LIGHT) – C.W. PG. 54

ADVENT SEASON –With Advent, the colors turn purple for the royalty, representing the hope and anticipation of our King who comes through the manger. Jesus came to accomplish our redemption. He comes today in the means of grace to distribute that redemption; He will come again on the last day of our resurrection. The candle lighting focuses our attention on Jesus, our brother, and the light of the world.

The wreath is in a circular garland to represent life in eternity. Each of the four candles represents a thousand years from the promise to the fulfillment of the prophecy. The lighting of the first candle is the "Prophecy Candle," remembering the prophets who foretold of Christ's coming. The second candle is the "Bethlehem Candle," representing the love of Christ to come to the manger. The third candle is the "Shepherds Candle" this is the pink candle reminding us of the shepherd's joy. The fourth candle is the "Angels Candle," embodying the peace of the message brought by the angels. The center candle is the "Christ Candle," it is the center candle and depicts the life of Christ and the purity he has brought into the world. We remember Isaiah's words, "though our sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow."

****CANDLES ARE LIT DURING THIS OPENING HYMN****

OPENING HYMN:

#3

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YOU MIGHTY GATES ****Please Stand during Final Verse****

1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My

hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
 char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
 Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and
 it a tem - ple set a - part From carth - ly use for
 heart to you; here, Lord, a - bid! Oh, en - ter with your

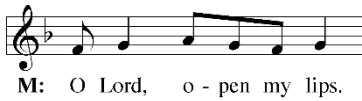
draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.

Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
 The end of all our woe he brings; There -
 The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who
 So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -

fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and

raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 praise For word and deed and grace!
 fame We of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR (88 88 88 66) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704.



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



M: The Lord be with you.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



C: And al - so with you.

Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word and receive our hymns of thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be Seated

EVENING PSALM:

PSALM 141



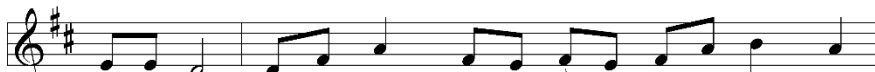
C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing



up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I



call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I



cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,



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

Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 58: 8 – 12

Then your light will break forth like dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. Your righteousness will go out ahead of you, and the Glory of the LORD will follow you. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer. You will cry out, and he will say, "Here I am!" If you remove the bar of the yoke from among you, and if you stop finger-pointing and speaking wickedly, if you offer your life for the hungry, and if you satisfy the desires of the afflicted, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your darkest gloom will shine like the noonday sun. Then the LORD will lead you continually. He will satisfy your desire in arid places, and he will strengthen your bones. Then you will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters will not fail. Then your ancient ruins will be rebuilt, and you will restore the foundations from past generations. Then you will be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of streets to live on.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 42 - 43

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Refrain

As the deer pants for streams of water,*
so my soul pants for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*
Where can I go and meet with God?
Why are you downcast, O my soul?*
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,*
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Refrain

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;*

let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.*

I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

JOHN 7: 31 - 44

But many in the crowd believed in him and asked, "When the Christ comes, he won't do more miraculous signs than this man, will he?" The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these things about him, so the chief priests and the Pharisees sent guards to arrest him. Then Jesus said, "I am going to be with you only a little while longer. Then I am going away to the one who sent me. You will be looking for me and will not find me, and where I am going to be, you cannot come."

Then the Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? He does not intend to go to the Jews scattered among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, does he? What does he mean by saying, 'You will be looking for me and will not find me, and where I am going to be, you cannot come'?"

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and called out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! As the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive. For the Holy Spirit had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

After hearing his words, some of the people said, "This is truly the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Surely the Christ does not come from Galilee, does he? Doesn't the Scripture say that the Christ comes from David's descendants and from the little town of Bethlehem where David lived?" So the people were divided because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

SERMON HYMN:

#283

SPEAK, O SAVIOR; I AM LISTENING



1 Speak, O Sav - ior; I am lis - t'ning, As a ser - vant
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you And to lis - ten
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing Where I quench my
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
to your voice! Let me ev - er love and fear you;
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



To your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, That each day, my
Let your Word still be my choice. Man - y hard - ened
On your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly



whole life through, I may serve and fol - low
sin - ners, Lord, Flee in ter - ror at your
be my light Through death's cold and drear - y
sing your praise, From my heart glad an - thems



you. Let your Word e'er be my plea - sure
Word, But to all who feel sin's bur - den
night; Yes, they are my sword pre - vail - ing
raise, Till my high - est praise is giv - en



And my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
You give peace and words of par - don.
And my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt, 1638-83, abr.; tr. composite.
Tune: WERDE MÜNTER (87 87 77 88) Johann Schop, c. 1590-1667.

SERMON:
SERMON TEXT

OUR THIRST IS QUENCHED BY THE LIVING WATER
ISAIAH 58: 8 – 12

SONG OF MARY

MAGNIFICAT

C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor
on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions
will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the
proud in their con-ceit. He has cast down the might-y
from their thrones and has lift-ed up the low-ly.
He has filled the hun-gry with good things, and the rich

he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
 help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
 prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

OFFERING – *The offering plate will be passed at this time. For our guests and visitors, this service is our gift to you, please do not feel obligated to have to give, the collection plate is for our members to take care of our church expenses.*

EVENING RESPONSIVE PRAYER

In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C: Christ, have mer - cy.

For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.

In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



C: A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry



peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BLESSING

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



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN:

#338

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this

me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down Your
 free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; Stoop
 dark world's light. Look un - to me; your morn shall rise And

head up - on my breast." I came to Je - sus as I
 down and drink and live." I came to Je - sus, and I
 all your day be bright." I looked to Je - sus, and I

was, Wea - ry and worn and sad; I found in
 drank Of that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was
 found In him my star, my sun; And in that

him a rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
 quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
 light of life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89.

Tune: VOX DILECTI (CM D) John B. Dykes, 1823-76.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Services – Our focus of our Advent Services “The Father’s plan of salvation is sending His Son; His Son comes as...” We will consider:

December 6 – Jeremiah 2 “Our thirst Quenched by the Living Water”

December 13 – Isaiah 9 “The light overcomes the darkness.” (We still need a volunteer for soup)

Christmas Eve – Jeremiah 23 “Our shepherd leads us”

Christmas Day (10:30) – John 1 “The Word has come”

Our midweek will have a soup supper prior to the service at 6 pm; with the service at 7 pm. Christmas Eve services will also be at 7 pm with cookies and treats afterwards.

Christmas Service Schedule – We will have our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Our Christmas day service will be 10:30 am with no Bible study or Sunday School on Christmas day. Since we have only two children in our congregation, it is time to be a child again, and overcome all the fears you had of presenting the Christmas story, or maybe you did not get to be in the program as a child. Here is your opportunity to bless our congregation, Pastor Emmons is looking for readers to volunteer to read (you don’t even have to memorize this time.)

Council Meeting – Our next council meeting is scheduled for 6 pm Friday, December 8, at the pastor’s home. If members of the congregation have any concerns, don’t hesitate to get in touch with a member of the council: Mitch Brayton (president), Mike Hansen (vice-president), Charlie Vandelicht (secretary), Greg Port (treasurer), Gene Baldwin (elder).

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