



ADVENT - Sunday 3

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Manitowoc, Wisconsin
December 17, 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

FINAL Sunday of Advent

Our Call to Advent Worship

PASTOR: Let this Advent worship be our offering of love to God,

CONG: To the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The reason we love him so much –

Is “because he FIRST loved us!”

(1 Jn. 4:19)

The EVIDENCE of God’s Love

And we are in desperate need of that love, dear friends. Whether comfortable with our lives OR acutely aware of what’s lacking in them, we all must admit that we are not what God says we must be.

And so we can only pray... Holy God, we do come to worship you now, but must also confess that any kindness from you depends entirely upon your mercy. We are lost in the darkness of our sin, floundering and flailing in our pursuit of temporary pleasure.

We are your believing children; but we are not who you intend us to be...

(vocalist) We are not what we should be, we haven’t sought what we should seek;

We’ve seen your glory, Lord, but looked away.

Our hearts are bent, our eyes are dim, Our finest works are stained with sin,

Without your mercy, Lord, we have lost our way.

Jesus Christ, shine into our night. Drive our dark away, till your glory fills our eyes.

Jesus Christ, shine into our night. Bind us to your cross where we find life!

LORD, when you entered this world in the flesh, you brought light to our dark world. So, your stunning answer to the travesty of sinful life was to live a perfect human life for us! WITHOUT that gift we would be hopelessly lost and receive your just and eternal punishment. But WITH your gift of faith we trust that you ARE merciful and DO love us.



But WITH your gift of faith we trust that you ARE merciful and DO love us.

*(vocalist) Still we often go astray, we chase the world, forget your grace,
But you have never failed to bring us back.
Reveal the depths of what you've done,
The death you died, the vict'ry won.
You made a way for us to know your love.*

Je - sus Christ, shine in - to our night.
Drive our dark a - way Till your glo -
ry fills our eyes. Je - sus Christ,
shine in - to our night. Bind us to
your cross Where we find life.

O Advent King, we still live in the darkness of sin, but you have given us the light of your forgiveness! Now prepare our hearts for your Advent by causing us to trust that your sinless life, your guiltless death, and your triumphant resurrection have removed and forgiven all our sins!

And as you help us trust the forgiveness you've earned, help us never forget what that ultimately means for us – that your 2nd Advent will give us life forever with you in heaven!



Je - sus Christ, on-ly you give us life.
 All our sin re - moved, Clean and ho -
 ly in your sight! Je - sus Christ,
 you a - lone made us right. Help us hon -
 or you With our lives!

Words and music: Joel Sczebel © 2011 Sovereign Grace Worship / Sovereign Grace Music (div. of Sovereign Grace Ministries. All rights reserved. CCLI License #2611556. Words (final refrain): M. Zimpelmann, 2016. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

10:30 Service – New Members of Immanuel Profess Their Faiths!!

Today’s Message from our Loving God – Jonah 3:6-10

⁶ When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

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

The Clothing of the King: Clothed in Conviction

Our Advent Offerings

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” - King David, 1 Chronicles 29:14



ilutheran.org/imhere

Our Advent Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Following Our Advent Prayer we join to SING: (tune: “Away in a Manger”)

(sung) **Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!**

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same

By mortals and angels; Come, Lord, reign alone;

Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;

As we forgive others, our sins take away;

In times of temptation, lead us to be near;

From evil deliver your children most dear.

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!

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.

Our Communion Prayer

It is good and right that we, at all times and in all places give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Your Son, our Savior, has promised he is returning soon, and he has taught us to be ready for him when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Now we marvel at your love and hear your Son’s Words of power and promise:

Our Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dear Jesus, the topic of gifts is very much on our minds in this season. But NO gift is more precious than YOUR gift of free salvation - the gift of your life for ours - the gift of your true body and blood given and shed for our forgiveness. May the peace we received today from your gospel in Word and Sacrament - remain the true joy of our lives and the driving motivation for our acts of love and service toward you and our neighbor. "O Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

His love endures forever." Amen!

God's Blessing

Closing Praise – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(CW 327:1,3-4)

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

Dear Savior, I was glad to be here this morning, gathered with my fellow believers to worship you. Thank you for readying my heart for your coming today. Cause the Word you have spoken to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life that I may praise and thank you every waking moment. Return quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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



Musician: Andrea Dolan

Handbells: Immanuel Handbell Choir

Worship Leader: Pastor Matt Zimpelmann