

# Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



## Observance of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 4, 2026

9 a.m. Service Bulletin

11<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmastide

# **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

## **THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!**



**WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**, and we seek to make your visit faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to left or sign the Pew Register (red notebook) as it is passed down your pew.

**WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS.** Our name, Immanuel, means “God with us.” Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors.

Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women’s Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children’s Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share "God with us" with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God’s Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

**WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH** is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

**WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE**, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

### **HOSPITALITY**

**RESTROOMS** - Our Handicap Accessible Restroom is located just outside the door by the pulpit. We also have restrooms downstairs nearby.

**THE CHILD CARE ROOM IS OPEN!** - We have a room for parents that offers a private, quick, and convenient space for caring for children. The room is located just outside of the sanctuary through the door beside the pulpit.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

The feast of Epiphany, which means manifestation and technically occurs on January 6, concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to ALL people.

## Order of Worship

*As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.*

### ✚ THE PRELUDE

Gigue / Christmas Joy Fanfare

Douglas E. Wagner

The Handbell Choir

### ✚ THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### ✚ THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

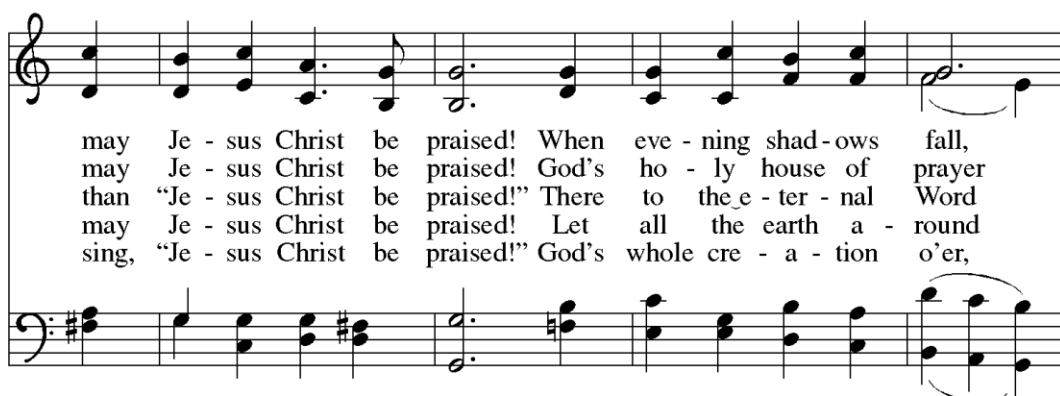
When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW # 853

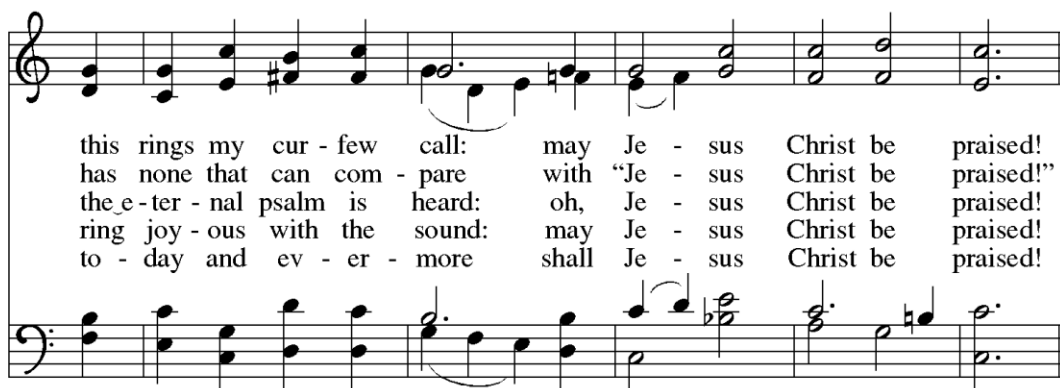
*Please stand, as you are able.*



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known  
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:  
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!  
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

## ✝ THE WELCOME

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

## ✝ THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor      The grace of our lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL          And also with you.

## ✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor      Let us pray: Almighty and ever-living God,

ALL          you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands. Accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

*Please be seated.*

*The children may come forward for a short message, then go downstairs to Children's Church and return during Communion.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### ✝ THE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

#### Summary

Lector      *Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise. Now, the lesson from the Old Testament Prophet, Isaiah.*

Lector      <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Lector <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Lector Here ends the lesson. For the word given to us,  
ALL Thanks be to God.

## ✠ THE PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

Lector <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;  
ALL <sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

Lector <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.  
ALL <sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

Lector <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.  
ALL <sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the Earth.**

Lector <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
ALL <sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

Lector <sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.  
ALL <sup>12</sup> **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

Lector <sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor and preserves the lives of the needy.  
ALL <sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he re-deems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## ✠ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

*Please stand, as you are able.*

Pastor Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**ALL Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**ALL We are listening Lord. Shape us in Your Word.**

Pastor <sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ✠ THE SERMON

*Please be seated.*

*The Gifts of the Magi*

The Rev. Chris Christopher

# ✚ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

We Three Kings

WOV# 646

Please stand, as you are able.

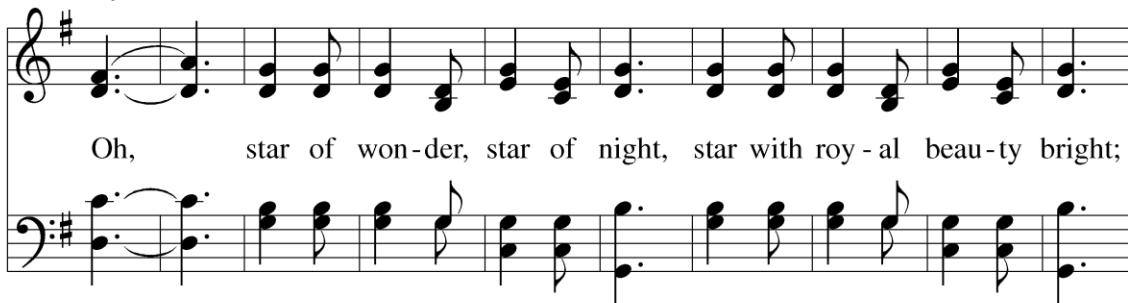


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

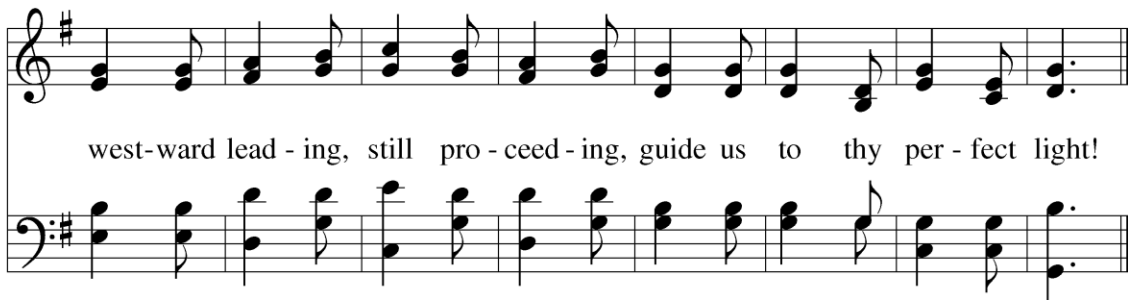


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

## Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.  
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT. John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

## ✙ THE NICENE CREED

AM Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

ALL 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.

## ✙ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Please be seated or kneel.*      AM = Assisting Minister

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

*Silence for preparation*

AM Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.



AM Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Proclaimer of promises, you create prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

AM Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us, especially Steve Presley. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM 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.

ALL **AMEN.**

## ✝ THE PEACE

*Please stand, as you are able.*

AM The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

AM Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshipping with us on-line and on the radio and say together,

ALL **the peace of the Lord be with you.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

*Please be seated.*



\*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website [www.ilcgreenwood.com](http://www.ilcgreenwood.com) and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

## ✚ THE OFFERTORY

*As with Gladness*

William Henry Monk

The Chancel Choir

## ✚ THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Please stand, as you are able.*

E Minor: Em D G D B<sup>7</sup> Em Am/C

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

B Em D G D B<sup>7</sup>

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Em Am B Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is

D B<sup>7</sup> Em Am/C B

Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm G D B<sup>7</sup> Em Am B Em (or E Major)

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: 16th Century English Melody

GREENSLEEVES

87.87 with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## ✠ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor      Let us pray: God of glory,  
ALL          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.

## ✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor      The Lord be with you.  
ALL          And also with you.  
Pastor      Lift up your hearts.  
ALL          We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
ALL          It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.*

## ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor      Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
ALL          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.

## ✠ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

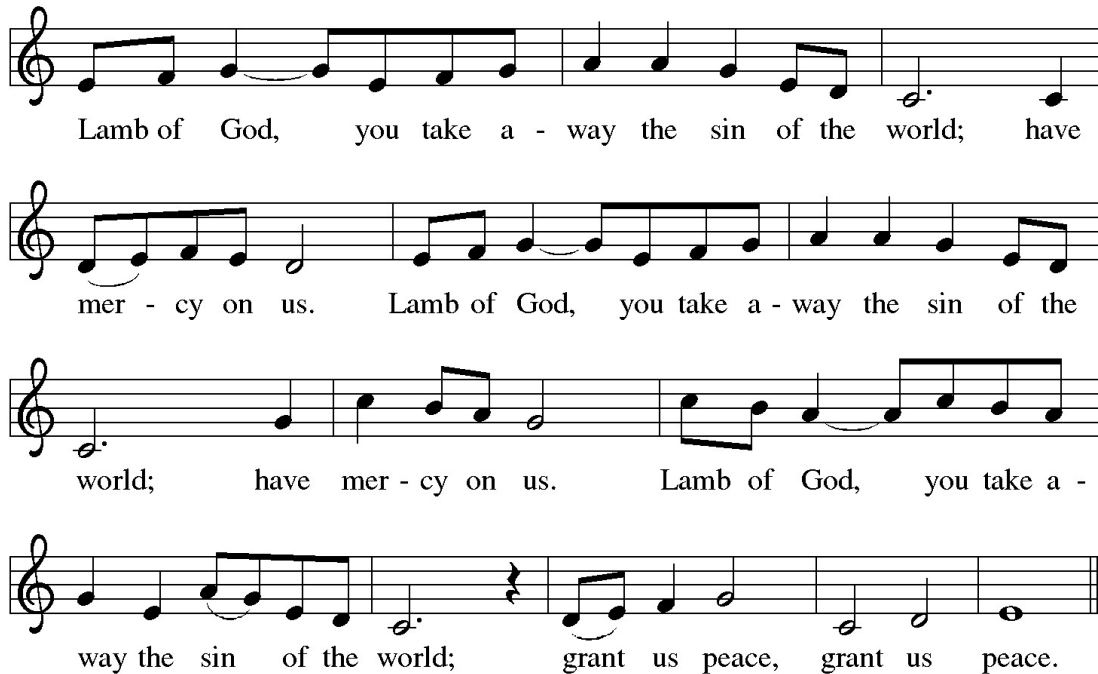
*Please be seated.*

*ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The silver cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.*

# ✚ THE AGNUS DEI

*Lamb of God*

ELW Setting 1

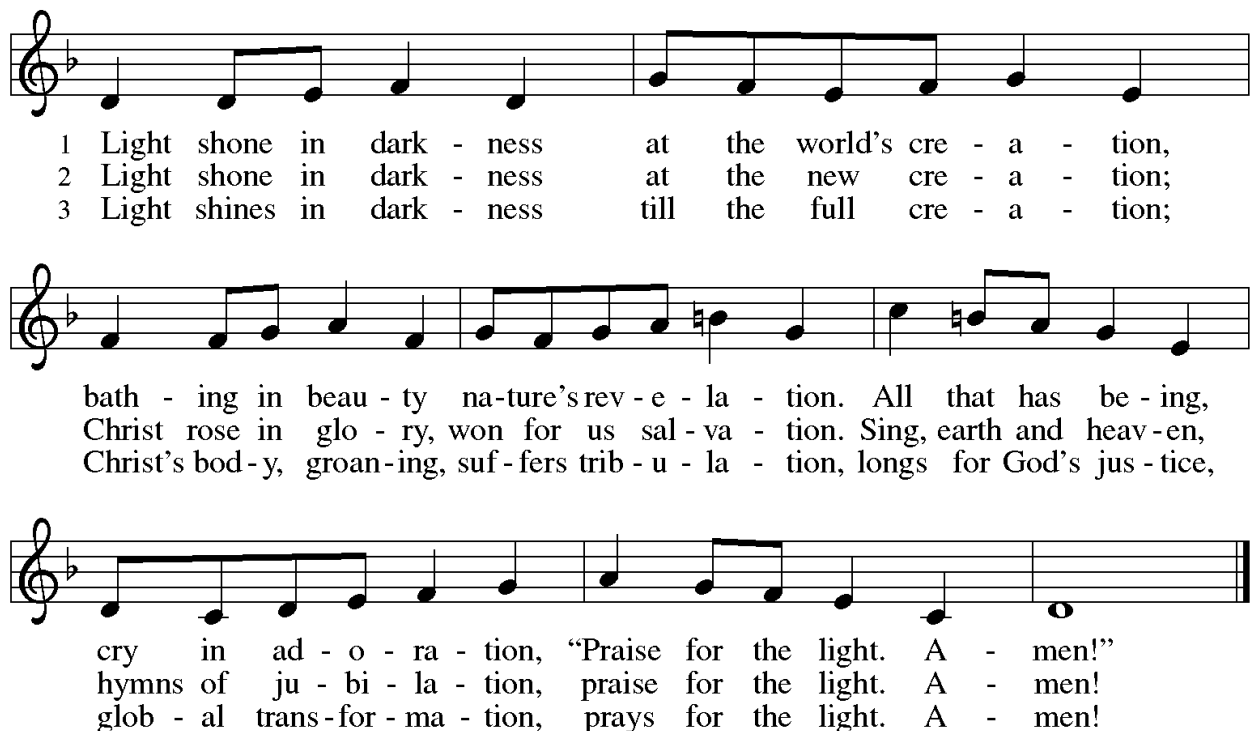


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# ✚ THE COMMUNION HYMN

*Light Shone in the Darkness*

ELW # 307



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,  
2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;  
3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;  
bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,  
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,  
Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,  
cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"  
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!  
glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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## ✝ THE INCLUSION OF COMMUNION WITH OUR HOMEBOUND

Pastor I invite our Ministers to the Homebound to come forward. Let us pray:  
Gracious God, loving ALL your family with a mother's tender care: As  
you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to  
share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and  
imprisoned.

ALL In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this  
sacrament and give us ALL the comfort of your abiding presence through the  
body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN. Go forth with our  
greetings and prayers, that we all are one, drawn together in Christ. AMEN.

## ✝ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand, as you are able.*

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in  
God's Grace!

ALL AMEN!

## ✝ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

ALL 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.

## ✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see insert.*

## ✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  
✝ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

ALL AMEN.

# ✝ THE CLOSING HYMN

Shine, Jesus Shine

ELW# 671



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the  
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the  
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our



midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the  
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may  
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from



World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now  
en - ter your bright-ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my  
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your



bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.  
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.  
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.



Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.



Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy.



Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

## ✝ THE PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION AND DISMISSAL

AM We proclaim together:  
ALL By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities,  
and connecting others to Christ.  
AM Go in peace. Share God's love with each person you meet!  
ALL We will. Christ is with us. Thanks be to God.

## ✝ THE POSTLUDE

*As with Gladness*

Craig Phillips

**THANK YOU to those serving in Worship!**

Lector and Assisting Minister	Danny Kinard
Communion Assistants	Danny Kinard, Chandler Darling, and Stacy Volpone
Sound and Video Technicians	George Beveridge and Ray Lorick
Altar Guild	Kat Finkbeiner
Ushers	Howard Bouknight & Bill Gilbert
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

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[office@ilcgreenwood.com](mailto:office@ilcgreenwood.com)

**Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**\* Closed on Mondays**

## CHURCH STAFF

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**George Beveridge, Parish Sexton**

[glblsb@outlook.com](mailto:glblsb@outlook.com)

**Trey Morris, Campus Ministry Coordinator**

[treyorville@icloud.com](mailto:treyorville@icloud.com)

**Sammy Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians**

## SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

**The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA**

**The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod**