



IMMANUEL

GOD WITH US



2nd Sunday of Christmas

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa

Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson

www.immanuelfamily.com

in person | live stream | on the radio

January 5, 2025 9:15am

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: **"The Bells of Christmas"**

#298 (vs. 1-2, 4,6)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14 *Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock*

PSALM: 147:12-20 [read responsively]

¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14 *The will of God made known in Christ*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** #289 (vs. 3)

GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18 *God with us: the incarnation of the Word*

Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.** Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON Pastor Zech

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"** #510

NICENE CREED pg. 104

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *L: God of grace, C: receive our prayer.*

Joann Bartleson

John Holland

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

Liam Bartleson

Karen Kofron

Tim Schmidt

Hayden Despenas

Mike Korth

Lucky Truong

family of Michaela Farus

Mercedes

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: **"What Child is This"** #296 (vs. 3)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING HYMN: **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"** #270

BLESSING

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

† † † † † †

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Today's worship service is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast is given by the Rachel-Sarah Circle in memory of members Joyce Kasper, Marge Solberg, and Alice Jones.

Worship Participants:

Ushers: Joe Strukel, Jacob Beenken

Song Leaders: Mark & Joy Newcom

Sound/Video Techs: Brody Hopp/Ken Ferjak

Organ/Piano: Karen Post

Altar Care: Mary Lund

Assisting Minister: Patti Strukel

Scripture Reader: John Tibodeau