A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a Christmas tree. The tree is covered in numerous warm white lights that create a bokeh effect, appearing as soft, glowing circles of light. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey and white, suggesting a snowy or misty environment. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

May the  
God of  
HOPE  
fill you  
with all  
JOY and  
PEACE

(Rom. 15:13)



**December 17, 2023**

**Advent 3**

*Good morning and welcome to our visitors! We appreciate your joining our worship family this morning, and we invite you to sign our guest book. If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor at 414-427-9337.*

**Family Worship: 9:00 A.M.**

**Choir: 8:00 a.m. Sunday school and adult Bible class: 10:15 A.M.**

### **Today's Worship**

*"The people living in darkness have seen a great light" (Matt. 4:16).*

### **Greeting and prayer**

**Hymn 350:** *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

### **Invocation:**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## Gloria



☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## The Collect prayer:

P: Let us pray:

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Lighting of pink Advent candle signifying joy. (LSB 357:5)

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*



## Old Testament Lesson:

*Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11...Centuries before his birth, the Savior promised he would transform mourning into joy...*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified....

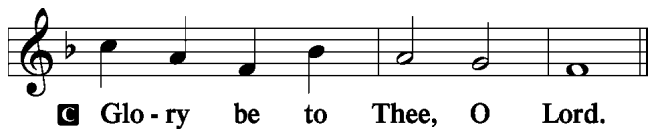
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia!



## Epistle Lesson:

P The Epistle lesson is recorded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24....



*Regardless of outward circumstances, we always have cause for joy in Jesus and his promises...*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

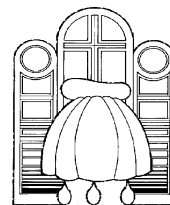


## Affirmation of HOLY BAPTISM

*Josephine Ione Theresa Blue*

*Born: October 27, 2023    Baptized: November 13, 2023*

*Acknowledgement: December 17, 2023*



**Hymn 605:** *Father Welcomes*

## **Confession of Faith**

*We shall all faithfully speak in testimony of the forgiveness of sin and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows in and through Baptism.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**Congre: I do renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father almighty?

**C: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.  
(Luke 18:16)*

**Hymn 354:** *Arise, O Christian People*

**Sermon:** *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light....

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

And he answered, "No."

So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### **Don't Miss Christmas!**

- I. Put away the distractions.
  - II. Listen to the witness.
  - III. Rejoice in the Light.
- 



### **Offertory**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.*



### **Offering**



### **Hymn 818:1: *In Thee Is Gladness***

*In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven,  
Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely;  
He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!*



### **Prayer of the Church**

### **Hymn 346: *When All the World Was Cursed***

#### **Benediction**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



### **Closing hymn 353: *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring***

## Announcements

### Professor gifts...

One way by which we praise God and express our thanks for the gift of His Son is through our gifts of love to others. With that in mind, we would like to gather a gift for the 12 professors who serve our church body at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire. Monetary gifts may be placed in the box on the hall counter. Make checks out to "Messiah." The deadline is Dec. 25th.

### Your help is appreciated

When we gather for worship we are in the presence of our Creator and Savior God, and so we strive to show respect and honor him in our order of service, and also by refraining from things which might be distracting to ourselves or others. "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name" (1 Chron. 16:29). With that in mind, the Board of Elders is asking that drinks not be brought into the sanctuary at the Sunday morning service.

### Hosts needed

Seminary student Paul Agentin will be conducting the service on Feb. 4 while Pastor and Sue are on vacation. He and his wife and three young children would appreciate housing the night before. See Eric Williams if you are able to help.

### Nominations for delegates

An election for congregational delegates to the Great Lakes Delegate Conference and the 2024 CLC Convention will be held at the voters meeting on Jan. 28. The delegate conference will be held June 3-4, 2024 and the CLC Convention June 20-24. Voting members of Messiah are eligible to serve. Contact Eric Williams if you would be willing to be nominated.

### Looking Ahead...

**Wednesday:**

6:30 P.M.: Advent service.

**Thursday:**

6:00 P.M.: Council.

**Next Sunday:**

9:00 A.M.: Worship service, followed by Christmas Eve rehearsal and Bible class.

6:00 P.M.: Christmas Eve service.

**December 25th:**

10:30 A.M.: Christmas Day song service.

**December 31st:**

9:00 A.M.: Worship service, followed by Sunday school and Bible class.

6:30 P.M.: New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion.



Wednesday

Advent Service:

*Behold, Your King Comes!*

*"In Power"*

*1 Jn. 4:17-19*

## **New address:**

Sam and Emily Lisak  
2350 S 58th Street  
West Allis, WI, 53219

## **CLC news...**

**2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Mission Helpers will be privileged to help spread the Gospel to children in either Kenya/Uganda, Tanzania, or Zambia for about three weeks. The application deadline is January 16th. Find more information and apply online at [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

**New Link For ILC Morning Chapel:** Immanuel Lutheran College morning chapel services provide daily edification for the ILC family. It has also served people across the CLC through an email subscription service. Unfortunately, the previous email delivery service is no longer viable. Another more reliable service has been set up, but previous users will need to re-subscribe. If you would like morning chapel sent to your email each day, simply go to <https://ilc.edu/faith-worship/chapel-list/> , scroll to the bottom, and sign up with your email address.

**Call news:** Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI, has returned the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC has returned the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. Jennifer Wiese, teacher at Luther Memorial School in Fond du Lac, WI is resigning at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

**ILC Christmas Concert:** A replay of the Immanuel Lutheran Christmas Choral Service *The King in the Cradle* from December 15, 2023 is online. The strings, flute choir, and band play the first portion. The choral service begins at the 47 minute mark. A copy of the program booklet is available. The video is located at: [bit.ly/23ccs](https://bit.ly/23ccs).

Bible Readings:	
12/17	Phil 4; 1 Ti 1-4
12/18	1 Ti 5-6; Tit 1-3; 1 Pe 1
12/19	1 Pe 2-5
12/20	Heb 1-6
12/21	Heb 7-9
12/22	Heb 10-12
12/23	Heb 13; 2 Ti 1-4

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December Ushers	Cleaning Teams 12/22-12/29
Kenny Winters Ian Stewart Jared Mueller Advent: J & E Bailey	Church: J/B Mueller D. Griffen J. Schaser
December Slideshow David Albrecht Advent: Eric Williams	School: A/J Brown F/S Goodrie
Christmas Eve T. Blue/A. & M. Plockelman Slideshow: E. Gurgel	Christmas Day S. Lisak/J. Schaser/C. Starr Slideshow: J. Lisak

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings:	\$6,983.50	\$179,583.40
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,380.21	\$198,615.59
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$1,396.71)	(\$19,032.19)
MSAF:	\$30.00	\$734.75
Kinship:	\$100.00	\$922.56
MDF:	\$30.00	\$780.00
Missions:	\$100.00	\$2,116.75

Attendance Last Sunday: 116