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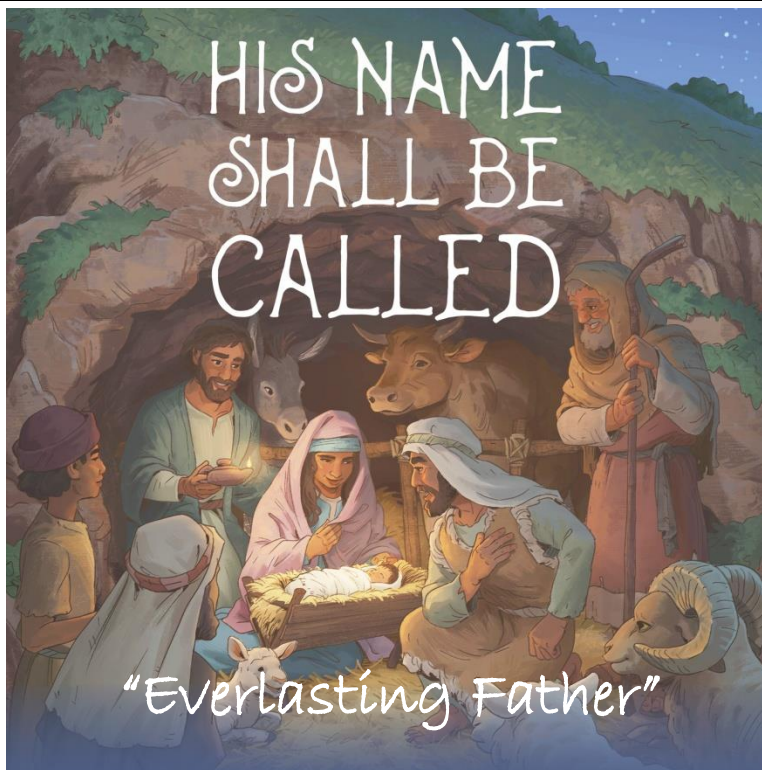
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December 18, 2024

Wednesday Advent 3



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 2 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

During our Wednesday Advent worship services we are examining some of the titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Tonight we consider why Jesus is called “Father” even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. Jesus, our “Everlasting Father” rules over creation and His people like a loving father and His kingdom is eternal. The One who rules over all things loves us! What comfort this gives us, especially as we face trials and suffering in this world.

We pray that the Holy Spirit would bless our worship and study of His Word, and so, we begin our worship service with prayer...

Opening Hymn: 352 *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

LSB 352

Advent Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin.**
- P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.
- C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.
We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,
and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,
and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**

P As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word, we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.

**C Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.
As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,
increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.
Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**

P Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us. In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate. Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

LSB 344 v. 2, 5

2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
way for God with - in, And let us all our
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:
Show us the reality of eternity with You, O God. Help us look beyond our personal problems of this day to that everlasting joy in Your presence that awaits us by Your gracious invitation. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV)

¹⁵[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-11 (NKJV)

P The Gospel reading is from John 14:1-11.

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.



5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cationum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

The 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**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, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,
begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

(confession of faith continues on next page ->)

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood
and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

This is most certainly true!

Hymn of the Day: 941 v. 1, 3-4 *We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God*

Children's Sermon - *Children 10 years old and younger are invited to come up front.*

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Sermon Theme: His Name Shall be Called – “Everlasting Father”

- † Why is Jesus, who is the Son of God, called “Everlasting Father”?

- † Why is this title for Jesus important?

- † What comfort does it bring us that Jesus is our “Everlasting Father”?

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12 Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583–1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Hymn: *“Jesus, Name Above All Names”* (see back page of bulletin - p. 12)

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church (Responsive) *We bring our prayers to God.*

- P** Wonderful Counselor, we come to You, Lord Jesus, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the celebration of Your birth. Wonderful Counselor, use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News.
- C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P Mighty God, we come to You in faith trusting that You were and are God in the flesh, our Immanuel, *God with us*. Strengthen all who are in distress from the troubles and stresses that surround them. Assure them and us of Your presence, strengthen their faith and ours, and lead them and us to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace.

C Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

P Everlasting Father, we come to You who conquered sin and death as ruler of creation while also serving Your people as a caring Father. Grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us and help us to amend our sinful lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbors, friends, and family.

C Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

P Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid the penalty that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity.

C Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

P These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, and in Your saving name we now pray the prayer that You taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

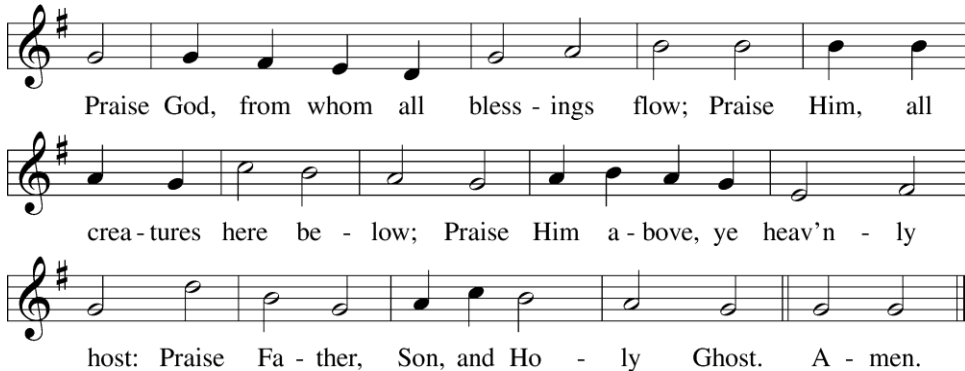
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction *The "Apostolic Blessing" (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

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

The Doxology

LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 705 (Worship Supplement) ***Come, O Long-Expected Jesus***

(please stand for last verse)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune & Setting: John Stainer, 1840-1901

1. ***Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Your people free;
From our sins and fears release us
By Your death on Calvary.***
2. ***Born Your people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Your gracious kingdom bring.***
3. ***By Your own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Your all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Your glorious throne.***

Text from the *Worship Supplement 2000*.
Text, Tune, Setting: © Public Domain.

Announcements



Welcome! We welcome all our visitors tonight.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today: **Wed. Advent Worship #3 – 6:30pm**
12/18/24

Church Cleaning: Team #6 (12/14-12/20); Team #7 (12/21-27)

This Sunday: **Choir Practice – 8am**
12/22/24 **Worship – 9am**
Children’s Christmas Eve Practice (sanctuary) & Bible Class – 10:15am
Lunch & Children’s Gift Exchange / Final Christmas Program Practice – 11am

ILC Professor Christmas 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.

The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The 3 purple candles are the color for repentance (or blue, which is meant to suggest anticipation and hope). The rose (pink) candle is the color for **joy**. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.**

The Christ Candle is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.

Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2024

Christmas Eve – Tues. Dec. 24th – 6pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
& Children’s Program

Christmas Day – Wed. Dec. 25th – 10:30am - Christmas Day Worship Service



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"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Text, tune, setting: Naida Hearn. Text, tune, setting © 1974 Scripture in song (a division of Integrity Music).

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1. Je - sus, name a - bove all names, Beau - ti - ful
2. Je - sus, lov - ing Shep - herd, Vine of the
3. Je - sus, way of sal - va - tion, King - of

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Im -
branch - es, Son of God,
kings, Lord of lords, The

man - u - el, God is with us, Bless - ed Re -
Prince of peace, Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Lord of the
Way, the Truth, and the Life, Might - y Cre -

deem - er, liv - ing Word.
u - ni - verse, Light of the world.
a - tor, my Sav - ior and friend.