

December 23, 2018

Advent 4

Organist: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Steve Goodwin

Acolyte: Joel Bernthal

*Rejoice
in the lord*

ALWAYS;

*again, i will say
rejoice!*



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¹ The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. ² Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. ³ The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. ⁴ Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty! ⁵ Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

Hymn: TLH #68

“The Advent of Our King”

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

C *♩* **A - - - men.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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

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. 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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C  **A - - - men.**

INTROIT

Ps. 19:1,4-6; Is. 45:8a

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

C **Let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

P The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

C **Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tent for the sun,**

P Which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy

C **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"



C 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.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Ps. 40:17b

Alleluia. You are my helper and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! Alleluia.


THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

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

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

C  All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

P Let us pray. ... and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C  A - - - men.

EPISTLE READING – Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING – John 1:19-28 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² 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?" ²³ 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." ²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
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.
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.**

Hymn: TLH #387:1,2,6,7 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"


SERMON – 2 Kings 1:2-17a Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness." ³ But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?' ⁴ Now therefore thus says the LORD, You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah went. ⁵ The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, "Why have you returned?" ⁶ And they said to him, "There came a man to meet us, and said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, Thus says the LORD, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have

gone up, but you shall surely die." ⁷ He said to them, "What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?" ⁸ They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite." ⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'" ¹⁰ But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. ¹¹ Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, "O man of God, this is the king's order, 'Come down quickly!'" ¹² But Elijah answered them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. ¹³ Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated him, "O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. ¹⁴ Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight." ¹⁵ Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king ¹⁶ and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron-- is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word?-- therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" ¹⁷ So he died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken.

Fall on Your Knees Before the God of Israel

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

- C**  **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.**


Hymn: TLH #114:1-3,6

"Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"


- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #441:1 “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

- C**  **We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

PRAYER, LORD’S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C**  **Amen, amen, a – men.**

Hymn: WS #704:1,2,5,6 “Oh LORD, How Shall I Meet You”

✠ Announcements ✠

Poinsettias have been placed in the sanctuary in memory of: **Mikaila Rojas, Mary Smith, Noah Rodebaugh, Grandparents**, and all of our **Loved Ones**. Thank you for purchasing poinsettias to decorate the church with during Advent and Christmas!

Looking Ahead...

- ✠ **Dec. 23:** Orlando Service
- ✠ **Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve **7 pm**
- ✠ **Dec. 25:** Christmas **10:15 am**
- ✠ **Dec. 29:** Wiffle Ball 9:00 am
- ✠ **Dec. 30:** Elders and Trustees
- ✠ **Jan. 6:** Board of Ed
- ✠ **Jan. 13:** Church Council

Financial Update Spending

has surpassed offerings and tuition in 2018, and the congregation is running a **deficit** for the current year. There have been some large, unexpected expenses this past year, including new A/C and A/C repairs at both the parsonage and school. Additionally, if you are able to help, we are looking for donations to the **Benevolence Fund** to help needy families in times of emergency. Please consider these needs as we close out 2018 and begin the new year. Thank you!

Christmas Schedule: Tomorrow evening at **7 pm**, the children of Immanuel will be sharing the news of the Messiah’s birth in the form of the Christmas Eve Service. Tuesday morning at **10:15 am**, we will be holding the special Christmas Day song service. The theme for the Christmas Day service is **“Who Gets to Hold the Baby?”** Please join us for these two services to celebrate the wonderful news of our Savior’s birth!

Thank you! The called workers and their families would like to thank the congregation and everyone who gave the generous gift this Christmas season. We are truly blessed by your support. We thank the Lord for such a gracious gift and wonderful congregation to serve. Thanks again.

Online Worship Just a reminder that all of the worship services held here at Immanuel are uploaded to YouTube and posted on our church website at <http://winterhaven.clclutheran.org/category/sermons/>. We provide this service particularly for those members who are at a great distance and are unable to attend regularly, but if you are unable to attend on a given Sunday, it's a great opportunity for you also to get the meat of God's Word for the week.

A Wiffle Ball Tournament is being planned to be held here at Immanuel on Saturday, December 29, starting at 9:00 a.m. Each team will have five players and will compete throughout the day. Ages 7 through 16 are welcome. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please sign up by going to <http://winterhaven.clclutheran.org/wiffle-ball-registration/>. If you can't play, we'd still love for you to come watch and enjoy the games. Help will be needed with various things throughout the day, please watch for more information in the coming months. If you have any questions or would like to help, please speak with Neil Bernthal.

Shut-in/Encouragement List **Betty Sweet** is now living at the memory care facility at Spring Haven. **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain when standing or walking. **Patti Meno** continues to receive treatment for her kidney condition and is awaiting a transplant. **Ray Seger** remains shut-in. **Bill Issitt III** remains mostly housebound while recovering from several health problems. **Richard Cook** is dealing with general unsteadiness. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound, being no longer able to drive. **Joe Jackson**, the father-in-law of Robin Jackson, is recovering in the hospital from a severe stroke. **Sharon Brown** was hospitalized this week with pneumonia; she is now recovering at home. **Rudy Enriquez** is going through very difficult times, we ask you to keep both Rudy and Sherry in your prayers.

Last Week (12/16) WH – 52

General = \$829 | CLC Missions = \$30 | Property Improve = \$10

Tuition = \$1010

Total Offering = \$1,919

December Usher: Goodwin | **Acolyte (12/30):** Mason K.
| **Cleaner (12/29):** Galstad