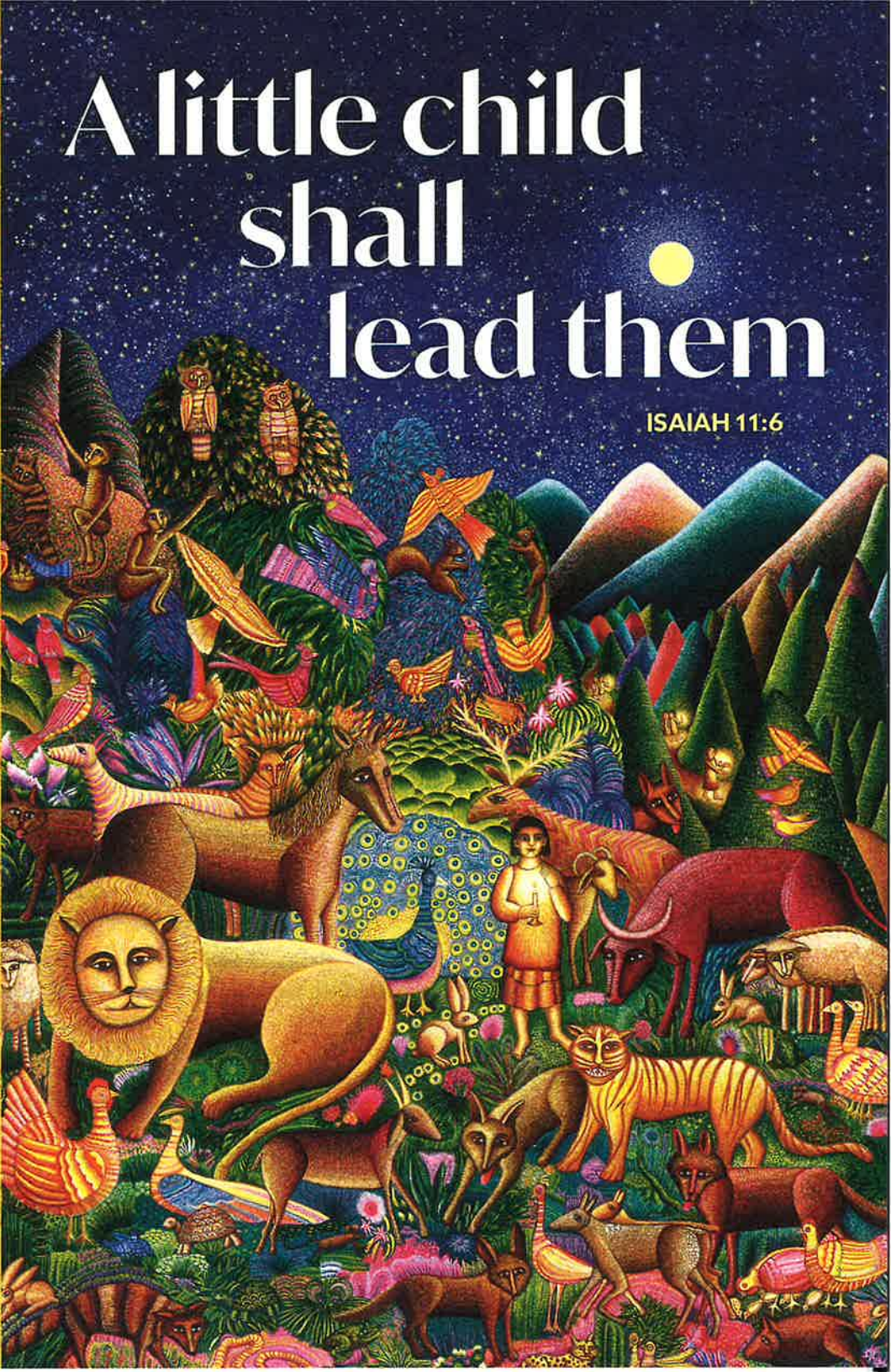


FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed
of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13
[not printed]
GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12
In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”
⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.
⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel - We are delighted to have everyone worshipping with us today. Please extend a warm welcome to those around you.

Prayer before Worship: Heavenly Father, you know what is on my heart and on my mind today. Please be with me, my family and my friends so that we may feel your presence and take comfort in knowing that you walk with us daily. Amen.

Prayer Requests: We welcome requests of prayers for our members, friends and families throughout our communities and beyond. Anyone is welcome to leave a note on the desk in the office or contact the pastor. **There is also a prayer box with cards to use on the table under the mailboxes for prayer requests.**

Offering envelopes are located and available on the table in the entry.

Please designate how you would like to have your offering used if for anything other than general funds.

The Lord's Supper, (offered on the 1st Sunday of the month) the Eucharist, or Holy Communion is a means of God's grace whereby the real presence of Christ is offered.

If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of wanting a blessing.

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

We have Children's Bulletins for those who wish to enhance the worship experience for the kids. They can be found each week on the table with the regular Sunday Bulletins.

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Newsletter, bulletin, and member information or changes may be sent to
ckwilson1983@gmail.com or immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com

This Week at Immanuel 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School

Sunday, December 7, 2025

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR JIM CHRISTIAN

Lay Reader: Jerry Kukuck

Greeters: Elton & Spring Mau

Ushers/Acolytes: Alec Harper, Acer K.

Communion: Dennis G., Jerry K.

Organist: Cindy Wilson

Sunday, December 14, 2025

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Lay Reader: Suzie Kukuck

Greeters: Alan & Sabrina Petersen

Ushers/Acolytes: Phil & Angie Kratochvil

Communion: na

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

Please include the following people in our prayers:

Lois Barker, Cheryl Poppe, Jeannie Weber, Bob & Nancy Lasser, Judy Logan, Kevin and Chad Allen (family members of Von Becker), Cindy Harris, and Rebecca Casson, Kris Barnett, Betty Petersen.

Announcements

Please mark these Holiday events on your calendar for the coming weeks:

- **Hanging-of-the-Greens service on December 14 at 9:00 am.**
- **The Sunday School Christmas Service will be Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 am**
- **The Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:30 pm, with Marcia Buchs leading worship.**
- **Sunday, December 28 – Hymn Sing with Pastor Ed; Morgan Baptism**

For children and families involved with the Christmas Program, please plan to attend rehearsals on Sundays, December 7 and 14, and Saturday, Dec. 20th.

Sharon Hardesty will be undergoing corneal replacement in both eyes. The date for the first eye to be done is February 3, 2026 at Carle in Champaign. Pre- and post-operative procedures will require at least 15 trips back and forth from Colfax to Champaign. Her family is looking for someone who would be available to drive her to these doctor appointments. They will pay the current rate for a driver. If you or someone you know might be a reliable driver for Sharon, please contact Cindy Wilson at 309-825-4099. If calling, please leave a message.

The High School Luther League will host the Annual Hot Cocoa Bar on Sunday, December 7 after worship. Donations of canned goods or non-perishables will be accepted to contribute to the Ridgeview Food Drive.

Additional Announcements can be found on the opposite page.

~Announcements~

The Matthew 25 Project is available to any member who wishes to contribute to their favorite charity whether it is connected to our congregation projects or not. Each member is allowed to have cash donations up to \$300 matched, or they may apply for “sweat equity” matching for service projects. Please see any member of the Mission Committee for answers to any questions: Marcia Buchs, Louann Harms, Jerry Kukuck, Connie Petersen, Lexi Morgan.

LWR Quilts - There is a box in the parish hall of pre-cut packages of quilt squares that can be sewn into quilt tops. These will help us prepare for quilting next year. Please use 1/2” seam, a tight/short stitch, and do not make a cross pattern. Questions, see Dee Winterland.

Youthworks Mission Trip 2026 – New Update!

The high school youth will be going on a Youthworks Mission Trip to Indianapolis, IN June 21st-26th, 2026. All high school students are encouraged to consider this opportunity! From personal experience, this trip will be worth taking a week out of your summer to serve others and grow spiritually. Anyone that plans to attend needs to let Erin Ifft know as soon as possible. Anyone with questions or that would like an informational packet can contact Erin, 815-848-1090 or eriniff1025@gmail.com.

Donations are now being accepted in the container near the Baptismal Font for a New Shoe Project that we are participating in with the assistance of Ridgeview Elementary. Many of the kids going to school are in need of shoes due to any number of circumstances their families are currently facing. In the next few weeks, a small Christmas Tree with Shoe selections will be available and designated for specific individuals: boy or girl and size. We may choose to take an ornament and shop for the shoes, or consider a cash donation to allow someone to shop for you. More information will be available soon.

Please remember, all requests for donations toward any project of Immanuel are always voluntary, as we recognize each of us has been blessed with a variety of gifts but we are not all able contribute in every event. Your prayers are also an important part of our ministry. We thank you for your support in every way possible.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord’s table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the worship leader begins -

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242

*GREETING

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Congregation may be seated.

Love's Pure Light - Candle Lighting Ceremony

Immanuel Choir with Congregational Singing and Responsive Litany



L: In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

C: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

L: We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

C: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

L: We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

C: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

L: We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

C: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

Candle Lighting

L: This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that only through trust in God's word and his promises can we find our own inner peace. We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace who taught us that through simple acts of love and forgiveness peace is spread throughout the world.

*ADVENT PRAYER

P: Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we thank you for sending the Prince of Peace into a world filled with unrest and strife. We ask that you quiet our restless hearts and instill in each of us the calm assurance that tells us you are in control so we need not worry. Give us the tools we need to serve as you would have us serve, and make us willing instruments of your peace.

C: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Promised Coming

Immanuel Choir

READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

back of bulletin

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

And blessed by your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

READING

Romans 15:4-13

back of bulletin

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW, page 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Jim Christian

HYMN OF DAY

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

*APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW page 104

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE GATHER OUR OFFERINGS

*OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able*

ELW 186

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

*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Nourishing God,

C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

After each petition: P: God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C: Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)

ELW, page 144

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all Places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

*LORD’S PRAYER

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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
Congregation may be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord’s table. The inner circle of cups contain grape juice, the rest are wine. The Common Cup also contains wine. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say “The body of Christ, given for you.” “The blood of Christ, shed for you.” and each person may respond : Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS **Lamb of God** ELW page 146
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN **What Feast of Love** ELW 487

After all have returned to their places, please stand as you are able.
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray... Generous God,
C: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

* BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you
patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and
always.

C: Amen.

* HYMN **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** vs. 1-4 ELW 257

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE