



Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403
Phone: (715) 842-3644
<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve
Please welcome Kathy Robinson
as she leads us in Worship.



Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Please stand if able.

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.

Please be seated.

Bell Choir

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Greeting: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

C: And also, with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please stand if able.

Christmas Carol

“Joy to the World”

#267

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

R: Word of God. Word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 96

R: Please read responsively to Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. R**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹ or and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the LORD. R**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, ¹ all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The ¹ LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peo- ¹ ples with equity.”**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is
therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- ¹ ing,
O LORD,
for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth. **R**

Bell Choir **“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”**

Please be seated for the Gospel.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Bell Choir **“Away in a Manger”**

Hymn of the Day

“The First Noel”

#300

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Vern Diestelhorst

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

After “God of grace,” please respond with “receive our prayer.”

A brief silence.

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the offering.

Offertory

Special Music – Judy Kort

The usher will bring up the offering plate.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

Bell Choir

“Silent Night”

Congregation, please stand if able for Lighting of the Candles.

Christmas Hymn

“Silent Night

#281

Please see insert for lyrics.



Lighting of the candles and singing.

Evening Announcements. All of you are invited for cookies, coffee and milk. Please join us in the fellowship hall after the service.

Blessing

The God of love,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prayer Concerns: Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. Leora Mitchell, Joan Winterhoff, Mary Ann Klinker, Frank Lewitzke. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Serving us Today

Leader: Kathy Robinson

Pianist: Judy Kort

Reader: Vern Diestelhorst

Ushers: Bruce and Kathy Knox

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, Pattie Bricko and Holly Westaby