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**Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403 | ​​Phone: (715) 842-3644**

[**http://www.immanuelwausau.org/**](http://www.immanuelwausau.org/)

**Sunday, December 25, 2023**

**Nativity of Our Lord II: Christmas Day**, **Year B**

Please welcome Kathy Robinson and thank her for doing the Worship service for us today.

**Prelude**

**Announcement**

**Introduction**

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ’s birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of “the salvation of our God.” O come, let us adore!

**Call To Worship**

P: Alleluia! Christ is born!

**C: Oh come, let us adore him! He is Christ the Lord!**

*Please stand if able*

**Gathering Hymn**  **“Angels From The Realms Of Glory” # 275**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

the Word made flesh,

our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,

let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P**:** God of life,

**All: you promise good news of great joy for all people,**

**and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,**

**our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors**

**and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

**P:** Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises

through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth

shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Hymn “Once In Royal David’s City” # 269 vss. 1, 2**

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12**

R: A reading from Isaiah.

R: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn “Angels We Have Heard On High” # 289**

**Psalm: Psalm 97**

R*:* Let us read responsively.

 1The Lord reigns; let the | earth rejoice;
  let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
 2**Clouds and darkness sur- | round the Lord,**
  **righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God’s throne.**
 3Fire goes be- | fore the Lord,
  burning up enemies on | every side.
 4**Lightnings light | up the world;**
  **the earth | sees and trembles.**
 5The mountains | melt like wax
  before the Lord of | all the earth.
 6**The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O Lord,**
  **and all the peoples | see your glory.**
 7Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!
  Bow down before the Lord, | all you gods.
 8**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,**
  **because of your judg- | ments, O Lord.**
 9For you are the Lord, most high over | all the earth;
  you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.
 10**You who love the | Lord, hate evil!**
  **God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked.**
 11Light dawns | for the righteous,
  and joy for the hon- | est of heart.
 12**Rejoice in the | Lord, you righteous,**
  **and give thanks to God’s | holy name.**

**Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7**

R**:** A reading from Titus.

R: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

P: *Let us stand* for the Gospel.

C: Alleluia! pg. 142

**Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20**

P: The Holy Gospel According to Luke

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P:The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn “O Little Town Of Bethlehem” # 279 vss. 1, 2, 4**

*Please be seated*.

**Meditation Kathy Robinson**

*Silence for reflection*

Hymn of the Day “Love Has Come!”  # 292

*Please stand if able.*

**Nicene Creed** *See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

**R:** Trusting in God’s good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves. After “**Hear us, O God**”, please respond with **“Your** **mercy is great**.”

R: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

P: Let us pray as our Lord taught us.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Sharing of Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And, also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**Offertory Hymn “What Child Is This”**  **# 296 vss. 1, 3**

*The usher will bring up the offering plate.*

**Offering Prayer**

P: *Let us pray together.*

God of abundance,

**All: receive and bless these gifts we have offered.**

**Join our hearts with the song of the angels,**

**and gather us at your table of celebration.**

**Strengthen us to share with all the world**

**the abundance of your grace upon grace,**

**poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

**Amen.**

*Please stand if able.*

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn**  **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #** **270**

Dismissal

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

**Prayer Concerns: Joan Bonstead’s daughter Tracy** (Contact ILC office to update.)

**December 31, 2023. Regular service time of 9:00 a.m.**

January 7th, 2024. New Year, new time. Church Service at Immanuel will start at 10:30 a.m.! Mark your calendars.

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Email for Pastor: nkalesto@gmail.com

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| **December 2023 Worship Servers**  |
| **Worship Leader** |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER**  | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 12/25/2023 | Judy Kort | Adam Doede | Bob Doede | V |   |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** |

**Next Week Service\***

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