

**December 13 & 14, 2020**

**Church:** 812-522-3118

*Dial-A-Meditation:* 812-522-1345

info@immanuelseymour.com

[www.immanuelseymour.com](http://www.immanuelseymour.com)

[www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLC](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLC)

**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Ralph Blomenberg

Rev. Philip E. Bloch

Rev. James A. Rodriguez, Jr.

**Vicar:** Sem. William Fredstrom

**Ministry Leaders:**

**Music:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

**Youth:** Mr. Matt Nieman

**Children:** Mrs. Patti Miller

**School:** 812-522-1301

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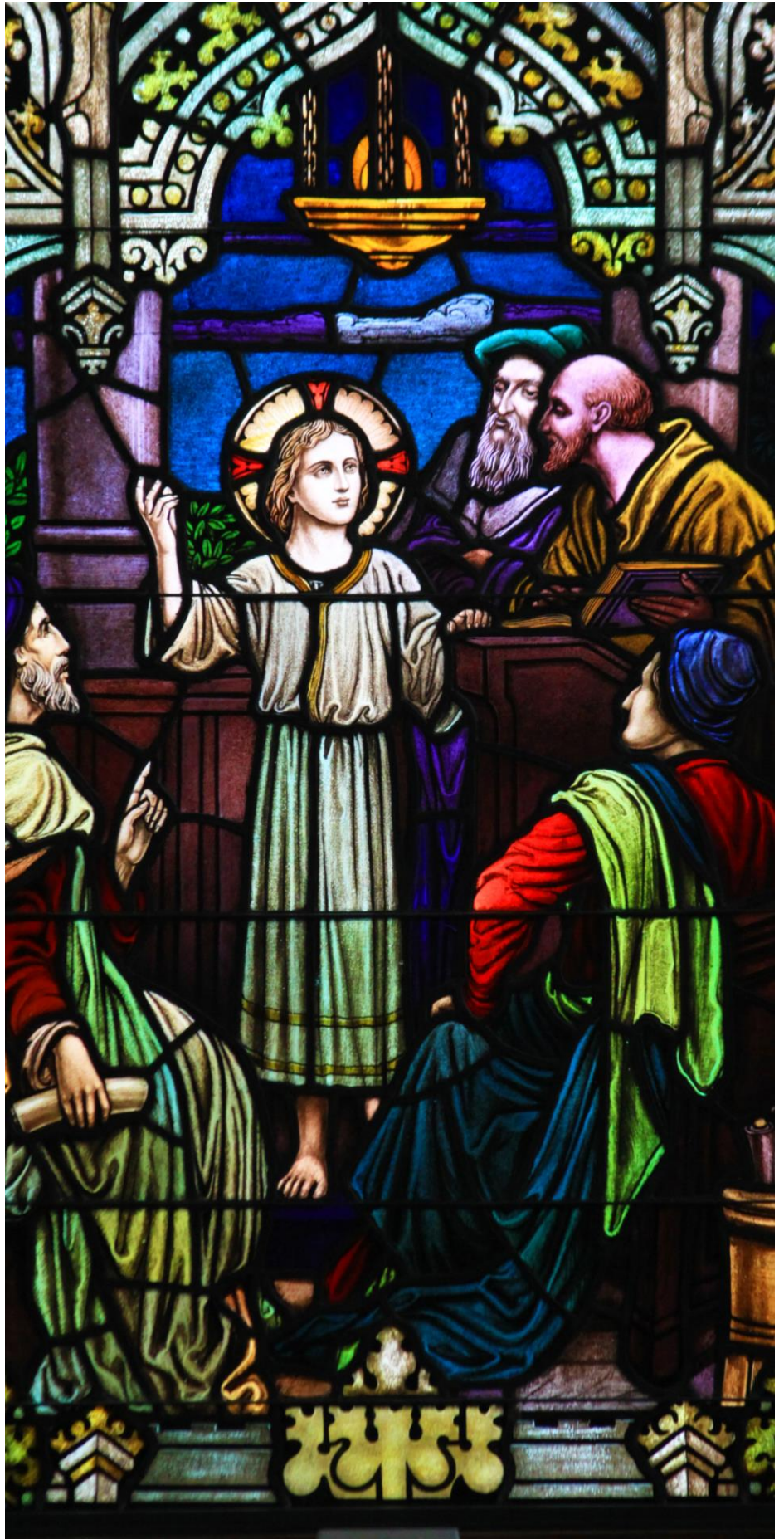
Mr. Charles Smith

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Mrs. Kelley Whitson



## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13 & 14, 2020

**Welcome to Worship!** John the Baptist was interrogated by the Jewish leaders as to his identity. They tried to pigeonhole him by comparing him to others who came before him. John keeps pointing them to Jesus, saying his real identity is in Him. Our identity is in Jesus as well.

A **Nursery** is available below the entrance on Walnut St. and a **Comfort Room** is in the Atrium. The Nursery is not staffed at this time.

**All Sunday School classes, Adult Bible Classes and Adult Information Class are suspended at this time.**

**Cell Phones:** *Please remember to silence cell phones and electronics during worship.*

**Holy Communion will be** offered at the 9:00 & 7:00 services. If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church, please contact an Elder or Pastor before Communing. An usher will dismiss your row to move forward to the person serving the bread, and then to the person serving the individual cup. You may then dispose of the cup and return by the center aisle.

**+ DIVINE SERVICE III, Page 184 +**

### THE PRELUDE

**THE OPENING HYMN:** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Hymn 341

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

### THE INVOCATION:

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

C **Amen.**

### THE EXHORTATION:



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.

P 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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

#### THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

#### THE ABSOLUTION

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

#### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (We sing Hymn 333, verse 3)

Soon will come that hour When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

#### THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY: (We pray together)

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### THE WORD OF THE MONTH: (we speak together)

**The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14**

#### THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Page 620)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks

himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24** (Page 988)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE: Page 190 C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8, 19-28** (Page 886) C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 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?" 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." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **(sing) Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

**THE HYMN: "When all the World Was Cursed"**

**Hymn 346**

- 1 When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,  
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.  
With true forerunner's zeal The greater One he named,  
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.
- 2 Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,  
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:
- 3 Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,  
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.  
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,  
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,  
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,  
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way  
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.

**THE SERMON: "Just who are you?"**

**THE CREED**

**9:00 & 7:00: THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**11:15: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

**THE PRAYERS**

**+++ 9:00 & 7:00 HOLY COMMUNION:**

**Preface**

P The Lord be with you. C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. C It is meet and right so to do.

**Sanctus**

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PAX DOMINI**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Amen.

**THE DISTRIBUTION: Hymns: 563, 619, 636, 643**

### 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

- 1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
- 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- 3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God  
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.
- 4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.
- 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,  
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

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### 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

- 1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,  
These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed. Refrain
- ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!
- 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in Thee. Refrain
- 3 Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. Refrain
- 4 Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;  
For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e'er is near. Refrain
- 5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessèd, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. Refrain

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### 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render.  
Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;  
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'ence greet Him.  
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.  
Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:  
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

- 3 He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;  
 But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.  
 Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here offered:  
 Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder  
 That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless:  
 With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.  
 Oh, most glorious consolation, Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
 Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:  
 Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You;  
 Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
 Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
 At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker  
 Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven  
 On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,  
 To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
 By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.  
 By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;  
 By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
 Through the gift of grace You give me  
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text (sts. 2-3, 6-8): Public domain

Text (sts. 1, 4-5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001725

### 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
 The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
 The Supper is ended. O now be extended  
 The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
 The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
 Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
 His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us  
 To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,  
 The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
 Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,  
 Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
 Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
 Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving  
 Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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## THE NUNC DIMITTIS

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all  
people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## THE THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, C: and His mercy endureth forever.

## THE SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you. C: And with thy spirit.

## THE BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

## THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

## THE CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hymn 338

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## THE POSTLUDE:

**Preacher:** Pastor Rodriguez **Liturgists:** Pastor Bloch and Pastor Blumenberg

**Lector:** Vicar Fredstrom **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

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