



ADVENT 2020

*hope*

AND HEALING

December 23, 2020 4:30 & 7:00 pm  
Immanuel Lutheran Church Seymour, IN

**Welcome to Worship!** The word “justice” can provoke many emotions today. In the world justice is handed out according to the rule of law. But God metes out justice in a totally different way! Yes, it is about the Law, but justice is run through the only one who could fulfill the Law. We thank God for His merciful justice!

**+++ The Service of Prayer and Preaching, Page 260 +++**

**THE PRELUDE:** 4:30: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” – D. Schack

**THE HYMN:** “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

**Hymn 398**

- 1 Hail to the Lord’s anointed, Great David’s greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression And rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Were precious in His sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains Shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness in fountains From hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall fall down before Him And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing.  
To Him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.
- 5 O’er ev’ry foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious, All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever – That name to us is Love.

**THE OPENING VERSES:** page 260 (Advent verse)

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;  
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
C **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**
- L Prepare the way of the Lord.  
C **Make His paths straight.**
- L Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.  
C **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:8-11**

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: 2 Timothy 4:1-8**

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

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

**THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said] "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

**THE RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT, page 263**

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L He shall reign as king and deal wisely , and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER, page 264

**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.**

THE HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Hymn 802

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life Thou givest – to both great and small –  
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree  
And wither and perish – but naught changes Thee.
- 4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.

THE SERMON: "God's Global Plan for Justice"

THE PRAYERS, page 265

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**EVENING PRAYER**, page 266

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**, page 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C **Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN: "Now the Light Has Gone Away"**

**Hymn 887**

1 Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking Thee to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.

2 Jesus, Savior, wash away All that has been wrong today;  
Help me ev'ry day to be Good and gentle, more like Thee.

3 Let my near and dear ones be Always near and dear to Thee;  
O bring me and all I love To Thy happy home above.

4 Now my evening praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.  
All my blessings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!

5 Thou, my best and kindest Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.  
Let me love Thee more and more, Always better than before.

**THE POSTLUDE: "All My Heart This Night Rejoices" – K. Hildebrand**

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

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

**Special Music: 7:00:** Woodwinds

*Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at [www.immanuelseymour.com](http://www.immanuelseymour.com).*

### **Advent Activities Between Services:**

**“Hope and Healing Activity Kits”** for the children to come pick up in between the 4:30 and 7 pm Midweek service. This will be a “grab and go” art activity for home. The kit is designed to be fun, full of learning, and give families with children the opportunity to share with each other, and also with a friend or neighbor, the love of Christ during the season of Advent.

**Grab and Go Cookies!** Cookies are available tonight in between services. Free will offerings will also be accepted to help support the youth ministry of Immanuel.

### **Christmas Worship Opportunities:**

Join us this week in person or online to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the gifts He brings to us!

- o **Christmas Eve School service** at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Due to space concerns, this is intended for children and their families.** Children with last names starting with A-L will lead the service at 4:30; M-Z at 6:00. Both services will be streamed on our website.
- o **Candlelight Communion** at 10:30 p.m. We plan to have overflow seating, if needed, in the Fellowship Hall.
- o **Christmas Day Communion** at 9:00 a.m.