



December 31, 2020

Church: 812-522-3118

Dial-A-Meditation: 812-522-1345

info@immanuelseymour.com

www.immanuelseymour.com

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

www.immanuelschool.org

Principal: Dr. Todd Behmlander

Faculty:

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Welcome to Worship! A new year is staring us in the face. What will it be like? Will it be better than 2020 or worse? How will it affect this new chapter of our life - 2021? We turn to the psalmist who reminds us: "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations."

A special welcome to visitors and guests! Please join us again soon for worship and visit the Welcome Center in the entrance!

Large Print bulletins and Hearing devices are available from an usher.

+ VESPERS, Page 229 +

THE PRELUDE "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year" - J. Biery

THE OPENING HYMN: "Across the Sky the Shade of Night"

Hymn 899

- 1 Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting.
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting;
And as the year's last hours go by, We raise to You our earnest cry,
Once more Your love entreating.
- 2 Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer addressing,
Recounting all Your mercies now, And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching You this coming year To keep us in Your faith and fear
And crown us with Your blessing.
- 3 We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of Your mercies:
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r Our grateful song rehearses;
For You have been our strength and stay In many_a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.
- 4 We now remember, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your caring
Who brightly shine in endless day, Past death and all despairing.
At our life's end, Lord, as Your own, Bring us with them around Your throne,
The joys of heaven sharing.
- 5 Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us,
And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
When heav'n itself shall hide us.

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THE OPENING RESPONSES: Page 229

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

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.

Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia

THE PSALM: (We speak responsively from Psalm 90:1-14)

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

L: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

C: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

L: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

C: In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

L: For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

C: You have set our iniquities before you; our secret sins in the light of your presence.

L: For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

L: Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

L: Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!

C: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

All: 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 30:15-17 (page 591)

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. C: Thanks be to God.

THE ANTHEM: "Abide with Me"

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:31-39 (page 944)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:35-40 (Page 871)

[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I

say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMON RESPONSORY: Page 230

L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

L Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

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

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

THE HYMN: “The Day Thou Gavest”

Hymn 886

- 1 The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended, The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended, Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
- 2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, unsleeping While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping, And never rests by day or night.
- 3 As o’er each continent and island The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent, Nor dies the strain of praise away.
- 4 The sun, that bids us rest, is waking Thy saints beneath the western skies,
And hour by hour, as day is breaking, Fresh hymns of thankful praise arise.
- 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never, Like earth’s proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands and grows forever, Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

THE SERMON: “A New Chapter”

THE MAGNIFICAT: “My Soul Rejoices”

Hymn 933

- 1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing
God, who is solely Mighty and holy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely
On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- 2 His arm now baring, His strength declaring—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted.
Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token All that was spoken
To Abr’ham’s offspring God is fulfilling—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

THE KYRIE, Page 233

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 COLLECTS

THE BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION, Page 234

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn 733

- 1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
- 4b Thy word commands our flesh to dust: "Return, ye sons of men!"
All nations rose from earth at first And turn to earth again.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.
- 5b Like flow'ry fields the nations stand, Pleased with the morning light;
The flow'rs beneath the mower's hand Lie with'ring ere 'tis night.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

THE POSTLUDE: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" - H. Willan

Preacher: Pastor Rodriguez **Liturgist:** Pastor Bloch and Vicar Fredstrom

Lector: Pastor Blomenberg **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

Soloist: Harold Matthews

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. We seek to fulfill Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing ... and teaching." Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.

Pick up your copy of Portals of Prayer and My Devotions today.

A blessed New Year to you!