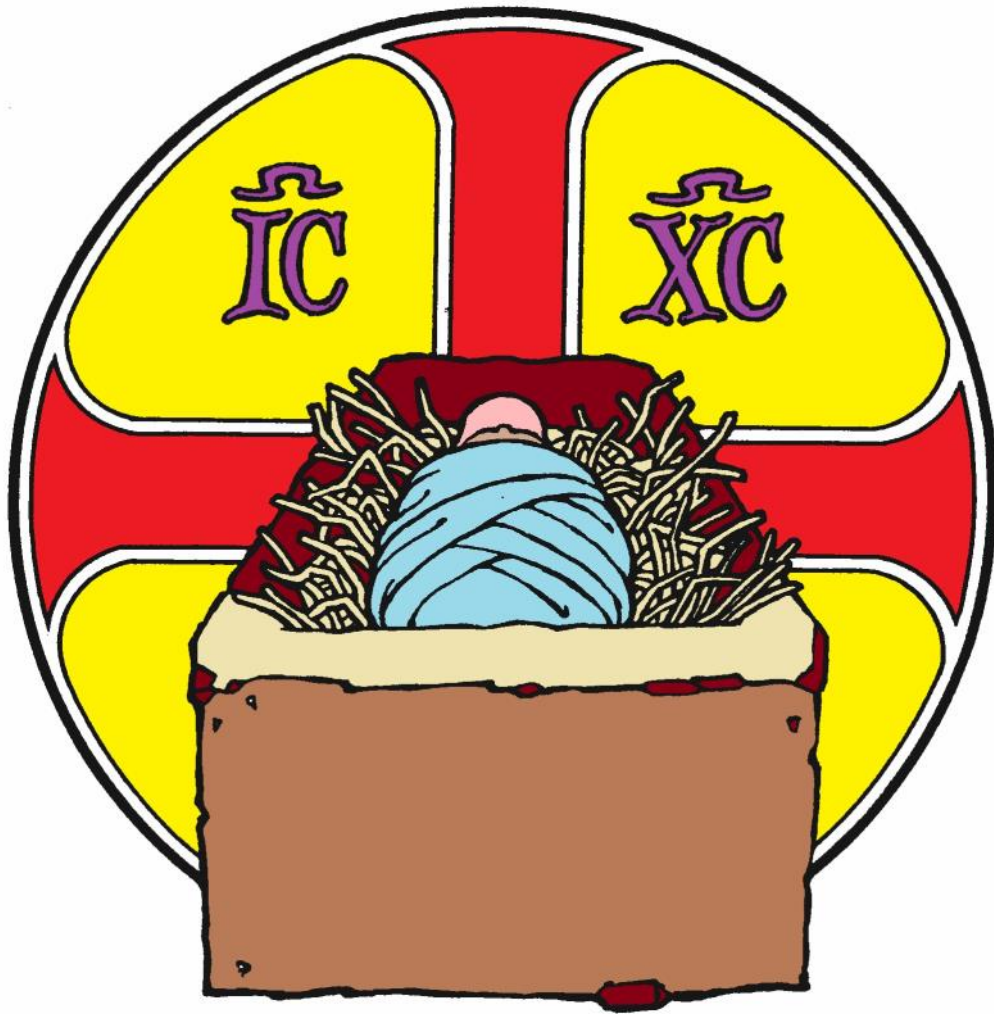


WELCOME TO EMMAUS LUTHERAN!



CHRISTMAS EVE

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**



## God's Divine Service to Us:

### ***The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness***

Heaven and earth rejoice on this night because the glory of the blessed Trinity is manifested in the human birth of *"our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13). In Him, the Father's grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world. The silence of death is broken by this *"good news of great joy that will be for all the people"* (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have *"walked in the darkness"* of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold *"a great light"* in the nativity of Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him, *"the grace of God has appeared"* (Titus 2:11). For this Child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, will bear the burden of our sin and death in His own body on the cross. He thereby establishes a government of peace, *"with justice and with righteousness,"* which shall have no end; not by any work of man, but *"the zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this"* (Is. 9:7).



**WELCOME!** What a blessing to gather together to worship the One True God! The Lord will bless your worship as he brings His gifts to you through Word and Sacrament. May we all respond with prayer, praise and thanksgiving. **We invite you to prepare for worship in silence and prayer.** Remembering your Baptism, you are encouraged to make the sign of the cross when you see this symbol ✝ in the bulletin or hymnal. **If you are a guest, Pastor Olsen would love to meet you.**



**WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN:** Worship is a time for the entire family to be together to hear the Word of God, for faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17). Therefore we encourage parents and children of all ages to sit together in the service. Understanding it is difficult for little ones to sit for long periods, ***Totes for Tots*** activity bags are available as you enter church (*by the information table*) for children to use during the worship service. Each bag contains books and quiet toys. Please return the bags and their contents after the worship service. Thank you!

**DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WORSHIP SERVICE?** If it is your first time, some things may seem foreign. Worship does not come naturally we have to learn it. It does not come on the first try; the first hour in a foreign country the language and customs may be foreign. The liturgy is the special activity of the baptized people of God. It has its own special language like we do in our workplaces. It has its own customs like we do in our families. Every Sunday we learn more of worship and faith. The liturgy is where God reveals Himself to us and gives us His gifts. Here we learn who He is and how to respond to Him. The words of worship come from the Scriptures and its form has been used for 2,000 years. So don't worry if it all seems strange. You learn by practicing - join us each week!

**"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord...'" Psalm 122:1**



**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

**RESTROOMS** are located on each side of the sanctuary. We have a **Family Restroom** (handicap accessible & baby changing station) located at the southwest corner of the building, just outside the Church Office.



## Divine Service - Holy Communion & Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Prelude “Meditation on Angels We Have Heard on High”    Handbells  
(Matthew Prins)

Opening Hymn    *Once in Royal David's City* (LSB #376)

Choir: vv. 1, 2    Congregation: vv. 3, 4, 5



Choir 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
Choir 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.  
leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.

- C** 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

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## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Invitational Sentences for Christmas

- P** Unto us the Christ is born.  
**C** O, come let us worship Him.
- P** In the beginning was the Word  
**C** And the Word was with God.
- P** And the Word was God.  
**C** He was in the beginning with God.
- P** In Him was life.  
**C** And the life was the light of men.
- P** The Light shines in the darkness;  
**C** And the darkness has not overcome it.
- P** God is light:  
**C** And in Him is no darkness.
- P** If we walk in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.  
**C** For the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.
- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:  
**C** A light no darkness can extinguish.
- P** Unto us the Christ is born.  
**C** O come, let us worship Him.

**Hymn** O Come, All Ye Faithful (LSB #379)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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## 1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 ~ The Prophecy

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

“O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly” (J. S. Bach)

**Adult Choir**

O rejoice, ye Christians, loudly, For our joy has now begun; Wondrous things our God hath done; Tell abroad His goodness proudly, Who our race hath honored thus That He deigns to dwell with us. *Refrain: Joy, O Joy, beyond all sadness. Christ hath done away with sadness. Hence all sorrow and repining, for the Sun of grace is shining.* Jesus, guard and guide Thy members, Fill Thy brethren with Thy grace, Hear their prayers in every place, quicken now life's faintest embers; Grant all Christians, far and near, holy peace, a glad New Year. *Refrain.*

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⊕ WONDERFUL *Mighty*  
COUNSELOR *God*  
EVERLASTING *Father*  
FATHER *Prince of*  
*Peace*

## Hymn *The People That in Darkness Sat* (LSB #412)



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
 3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
 na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
 Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
 last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
 har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
 God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r  
 Shall over all extend;  
 On judgment and on justice based,  
 His reign shall have no end,  
 His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
 And make us Thine alone,  
 Who with the Father ever art  
 And Holy Spirit, one,  
 And Holy Spirit, one.

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## 2nd Reading: Luke 2:1-7 ~ The Birth of Jesus

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee,

from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### “In the Bleak Midwinter” (Harold Darke)

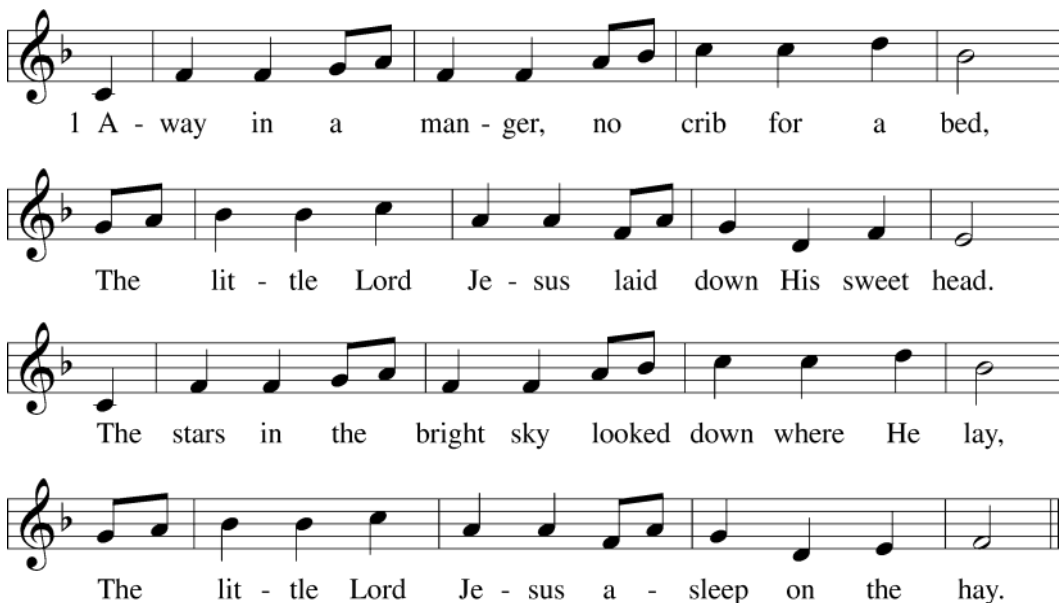
Adult Choir

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak mid-winter long ago. Our God, heav’n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav’n and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter, a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can give him, give my heart, give, my heart.

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### Hymn *Away in a Manger* (LSB #365)



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.



- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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### 3rd Reading: Luke 2:8-14 ~ Angels and Shepherds

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



“Gloria” (John Leavitt)

Adult Choir

(sung in Latin) *Gloria in excelsis Deo.* (Glory to God in the highest.) *Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.* (On earth peace to all mankind.) *Gloria in excelsis Deo.* (Glory to God in the highest.)

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Hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing, vv. 1, 3 (LSB #380)*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!”

Text and tune: Public domain

## 4th Reading: Luke 2:15-20 ~ Visitation of the Shepherds

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



*"Shepherds' Farewell"* (Hector Berlioz)

**Adult Choir**

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, The humble crib, the stable bare, Babe, all mortal babes excelling, Content our earthly lot to share, Loving Father, loving mother, Shelter thee with tender care! Blessed Jesus, we implore thee With humble love and holy fear, In the land that lies before thee, Forget not us who linger here! May the shepherd's lowly calling, Ever to thy heart be dear!

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## Hymn *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* (LSB #374)



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Collect for Christmas

**P** O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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.

# Hymn *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* (LSB #358, vv. 1, 2, 3, 8, 13-15)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 low - ly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
 Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
 You came to share my misery  
 That You might share Your joy with me.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
 A quiet chamber set apart  
 For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
 My lips no more can silence keep.  
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
 While angels sing with pious mirth  
 A glad new year to all the earth.

## Offering

*The offering will not be collected during the worship service this evening. Please place your offering in one of the collection plates located at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute electronically, you can sign up by going to the church website, [www.emmausfortwayne.org](http://www.emmausfortwayne.org), and click on “Give Online” or use Vanco Mobile, available from the app Store. Thank you for your support of the ministry at Emmaus!*

## Hymn Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light (LSB #378)

Choir: v. 1

Congregation: vv. 2, 3

Choir 1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And

ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not

with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This

Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -

dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan

break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.

- C** 2 O dearest Child, whom I adore,  
 Whose grace surpasses measure,  
 My Brother, whom I cherish more  
 Than earth with all its treasure:  
 Haste from Thy manger to depart,  
 O come and dwell within my heart;  
 With joy will I receive Thee,  
 A cradle there will give Thee.
- C** 3 All blessing, thanks, and praise to Thee,  
 Lord Jesus Christ, be given:  
 Thou hast my Brother deigned to be,  
 Thou Lord of earth and heaven.  
 Help me throughout this day of grace  
 To praise Thy love and seek Thy face;  
 And when I stand before Thee  
 Forever to adore Thee.

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## Confession and Absolution

- P** Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C** O almighty God, merciful Father, 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.
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
- C** Amen.
- P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
- C** Yes.
- P** Let it be done for you as you believe. 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.



## Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

## Words of Institution

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and give it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## Distribution

### Our Holy Communion Practice

*In Holy Communion we are joined in a personal way with Christ and with one another as we receive the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, out of faithfulness toward God, and in sincere love that seeks to guard the spiritual well-being of all who would commune, Emmaus practices Closed Communion.*

*Holy Scripture clearly teaches that those communing together be unified in their confession of the faith, and also that those who commune unworthily do great harm to themselves. When a person partakes of the sacrament, he/she is also confessing his/her unreserved agreement with the doctrine and practice that is proclaimed from the altar and pulpit of which the Sacrament is administered. Therefore, we ask you to refrain from communing if you are not a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. All others are still welcome to come forward, crossing your arms to receive a blessing. Please speak with the pastor about receiving instruction to learn what Scripture teaches and our church confesses. We pray fervently for the day when Christ returns and all divisions will cease.*

*Thank you for respecting our practice.*

## Distribution Hymns

### *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (LSB #359)



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph-ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* (LSB #386)



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it.	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

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## Post-Communion Hymn

*Come Your Hearts and Voices Raising (LSB #375, vv. 5, 6)*

- 5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

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## Post-Communion Collect

**P** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lighting of the Candles

*(Silent Night will be played while the candles are lit and continues through the Benediction)*  
*The ushers will light their candles from the Pastor's candle. They will then proceed down the aisle. The first worshiper in each row should light their candle from the usher's. The remaining worshipers in each pew should light their candles from the lit candle next to them. **Never tilt a lit candle!***

## Prayer for Christmas

**P** O God, You have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of Jesus, the true Light. Grant that, having known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven where He lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## 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.

## Closing Hymn    *Silent Night, Holy Night* (LSB #363)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav-en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Please extinguish your candles prior to leaving your row and hold them upright until the wax has cooled and hardened. You may place your candle in one of the boxes located in the doorway as you leave. Thank you!*



***Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year***

to each and everyone from the staff of  
Emmaus Lutheran Church, School and Preschool.  
May God bless your worship of His Son and grant you His  
blessings of peace & joy in 2024!

## **Participating in This Evening's Service**

**Preacher & Celebrant:** Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III

**Communion Assistant:** Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss

**Acolyte:** Hunter Durlacher

**Elder:** Mr. Jacob Bushur

**Organist:** Mr. Timothy LaCroix

**Choirs:** Emmaus Adult Choir &  
Handbell Choir

**Violinist:** Nik Kiess

## **Our Sincere Thanks**

to all who assisted in decorating our church and school  
for Christmas. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

## **MISSION OF EMMAUS LUTHERAN:**

*Empowered by God's gift of never-ending love in Word and Sacrament and  
responding to the forgiveness won for us by Jesus Christ on the cross,  
the mission of the family of Emmaus Lutheran is to  
COURAGEOUSLY CONFESS CHRIST  
through worship, life together, teaching and service.*

UNITY † FAMILY † FAITHFUL † EDUCATION † CONFSSIONAL

## THIS WEEK AT EMMAUS

### Sunday, December 24

#### Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Divine Service - Holy  
Communion  
& Candlelight Service

### Monday, December 25

#### Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Divine Service - Holy  
Communion  
Festival Service  
Acolyte: Erik Olsen  
Elder: James Heeren

### Monday - Friday

December 25 - 29  
Christmas Break - NO School

### Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

### Sunday, December 31

#### 1st Sunday after Christmas

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Matins  
Acolyte: Niko Spanos  
Elder: Jesse Steinbacher  
Our Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes  
will not meet today. Classes will resume on  
Sunday, January 7th.



**COURAGEOUSLY CONFESSING CHRIST**

8626 Covington Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Phone: 260-459-7722 FAX: 260-459-7766

Church: [www.emmausfortwayne.org](http://www.emmausfortwayne.org)

School: [www.emmauslutheranfw.org](http://www.emmauslutheranfw.org)

Check out our YouTube Channel:  
Emmaus Lutheran Fort Wayne



The Ministry of Emmaus is eager to serve you!

Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III, *Pastor*  
Home: 260-432-0365  
[revolsen@emmausfortwayne.org](mailto:revolsen@emmausfortwayne.org)

Darlene Heeren, *Church Secretary*

Timothy LaCroix, *Music Director*

Karen Detwiler, *Family Care Coordinator*

*A member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.*

