

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

212-289-8128 www.immanuelnyc.org www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

Immanuel's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCixDAacoJS7umLndiBnugmw You can tune in at 10:55 a.m. for the prelude and service or later for a recording.

The Second Sunday of Advent

11 a.m. Sunday, December 10, 2023

arm welcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church. We are delighted that you are here and hope that you will return. If you do not already have a church home in our city, please consider joining this congregation. We would rejoice to have you. Just send me an email (gpfryer@gmail.com) or speak with Pastor Carol Fryer (ceafryer@gmail.com) or with Pastor Lara Bhasin (lara.bhasin@tsm.edu).



Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Three

PRELUDE

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 599 J. S. Bach (1685-1750) Organist Ethan Chow

BELLS

Please stand when the minister approaches the center aisle.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand. Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Most merciful God,
- we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

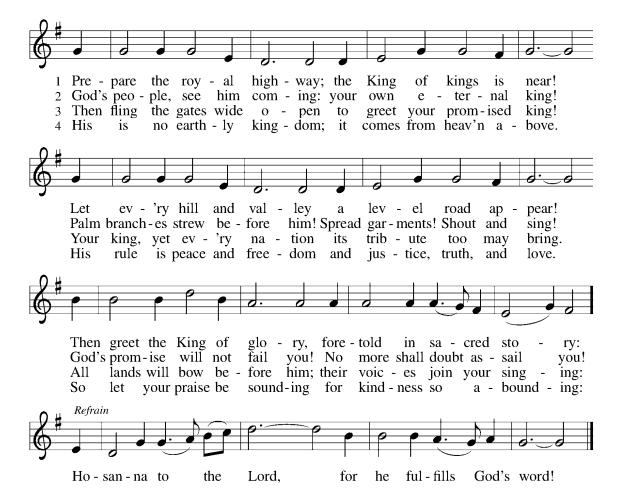
The Entrance Rite

HYMN LBW 26

Prepare the Royal Highway

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the Royal Highway



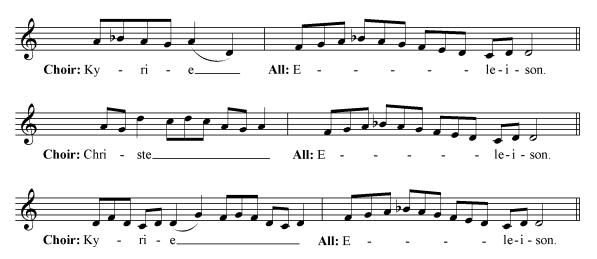
Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **Q** And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

ADVENT CANDLE (The second candle is lit by Justin and Anu Pfauth and their children Nolan and Anissa.)

P We praise you, O God, with this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles of this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we will be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we will welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word of God

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11, RSV

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The LORD will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the Word of our God.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people is grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with migh and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

A The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13, LBW



Cantors ¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;* you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

All ²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people* and blotted out | all their sins.

Cantors ⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,* for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to him.

All ⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,* that his glory may dwell | in our land.

Cantors ¹⁰Mercy and truth have | met together;* righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

All ¹¹Truth shall spring up | from the earth,* and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

Cantors ¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,* and our land will | yield its increase.

All ¹³Righteousness shall | go before him,* and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

SECOND LESSON2 Peter 3:8-15a, RSV

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. St. Peter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! ¹³But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new

earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation.

A The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the singing of the Gospel Acclamation and for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

ALLELUIA: Traditional Gregorian Chant



All: Alleluia.

Cantors Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

All: Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the First Chapter:



¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,

who shall prepare thy way; ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

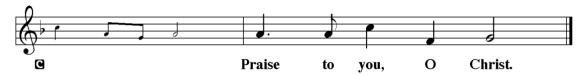
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight--"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

After the Gospel:

P The Gospel of the Lord!

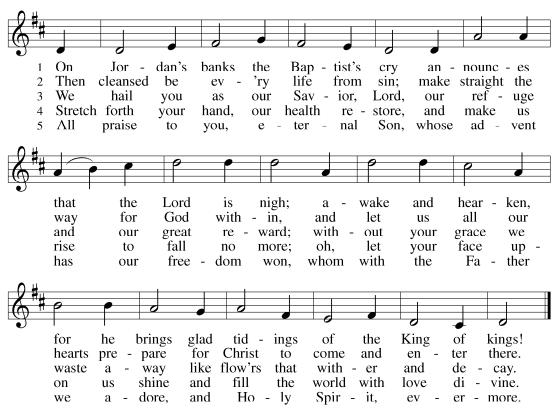


HYMN LBW 36

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

PUER NOBIS

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Please sit after the minister's opening invocation of the Holy Trinity.

SERMON

Following the sermon, silence for reflection.

APOSTLES' CREED

1 I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LITANY. The response overlaps each petition.

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, singing, "Lord, have mercy."

Begin:



After each petition except the last, the People respond:



The last petition:

A For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.



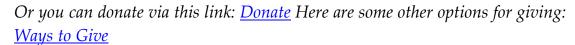
The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **And also with you.**

Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "Peace be with you."

THE OFFERING You can give your tithes and offerings via our QR code. Just point the camera on your smart phone to this code on your screen:





The Eucharistic Bread and Wine are moved from the credence table to the altar. The congregation remains in the pews until the Distribution of the Sacrament.

OFFERTORY

Ave Maria for Solo Cello Cellist Daniel Yen

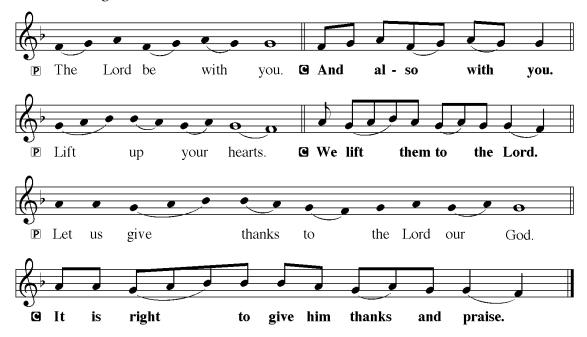
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Offertory Prayer

- **A** Merciful Father,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

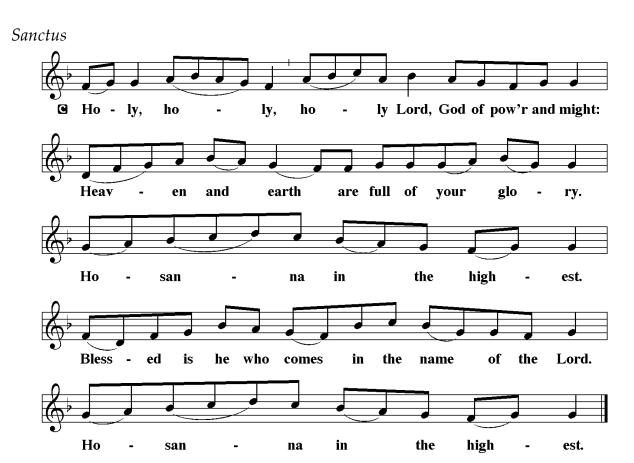
Eucharistic Dialogue



PREFACE FOR ADVENT

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You

comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer I

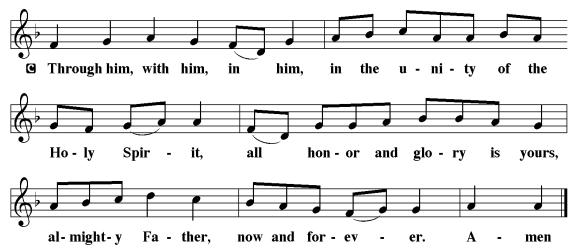
P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- **©** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.
- **A**men. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
- **Amen.** Come, Holy Spirit.
- P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

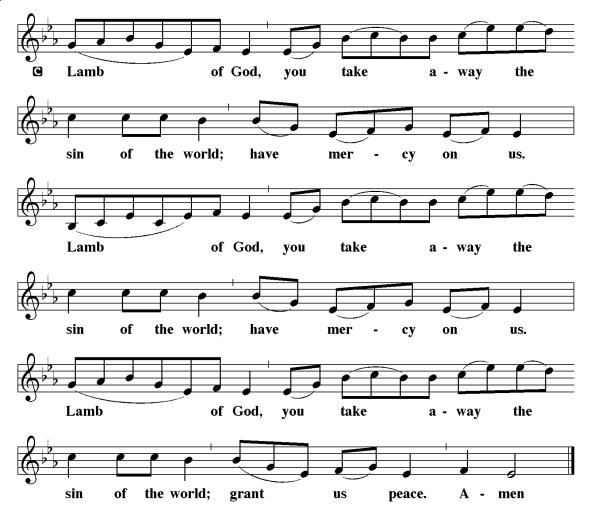


The Lord's Prayer

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 FRACTION. The host is broken.

Agnus Dei



Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

+ If you are home, worshiping online with us, here is a possible "Prayer for Spiritual Communion" lifted up in *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

HYMN LBW 29

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (Next page)

FREU DICH SEHR

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



- 1 "Com fort, com fort now my peo ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her ald's voice is cry ing in the des ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough er plac es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load. call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king-dom now is here. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them! Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way! For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er. Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him! and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Silence for reflection.

The Sending

BENEDICTION (Spoken)

HYMN LBW 30

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Next page)

JEFFERSON

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



- peo-ple free; 1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed thy Je - sus, born to set
- child, and 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a yet a king;



us for - ev - er,

Is -rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our By thine own hearts a - lone;

now

thy

gra-cious king-dom bring.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

born to reign in

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615 Organist Ethan Chow

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Parish Announcements

+ ABOUT TODAY'S PARAMENTS AND VESTMENTS. The blue paraments and vestments used during Advent are symbolic of hope. We hope for the Christ child to be born in us, and we wait in hope for his return.

- + The ADVENT BANNER. Two trumpets are shown one descending to announce the coming Christ and one ascending in praise for grace and thanksgiving for the coming Kingdom.
- + Our service of LESSONS AND CAROLS is set for this coming Saturday at 5 p.m., to be followed by our traditional ST. NICHOLAS PARTY. Lessons and Carols is upstairs, in the church nave, and the St. Nicholas Party is in our church undercroft. Welcome, everyone!
- + CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND MUSIC FUND. The church is decorated at Christmas with a lighted tree and poinsettias. Members and friends may wish to place one or more poinsettia plants in the church to honor the memory of departed loved ones or simply as a gift to the glory of God in the incarnate Christ. A gift of \$20.00 for each plant as well as gifts in honor of sacred music here at Immanuel can be given, using the envelope included with this worship folder for your convenience. You may place it in the offering plate or give it to Ester Neubacher between now and December 17.
- + TOY COLLECTION: The Sisters of the Fraternité Notre Dame will again be hosting a Christmas party for needy children. They are asking for donations of new toys. If you can give a toy, please wrap it and mark it as to the age of the child and whether it is for a boy or girl. (Please no guns or violent toys.) You may leave your gifts in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or bring them to the church office during the week. Let's aim for Sunday December 10 as the last Sunday for bringing gifts.
- + CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE. The Sunday School will have a mitten tree once again this year. Please give the mittens (or gloves) you bring to one of our Sunday School teachers. The mittens will be given to the Fraternité Notre Dame who will distribute them to needy children. The mitten tree will be put up during the Hanging of the Greens on December 16th.
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Service Notes

Organist and Choirmaster	Zac Schurman
Cantors	Kerrigan Bigelow, Teresa Castillo, and Olivia Ericsson
Greeters/Ushers	Luz Ortiz, Jazo Ichikawa
Altar Guild	Ester and Eric Neubacher
Crucifer	
Lector	Richard Schreiber
Preacher	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer
Presiding Minister	Rev. Lara Bhasin
_	Rev. Carol E.A. Fryer

Intercessions

FAIRLY NEW TO THE PRAYER LIST: Celia Cabrera, Minfang Cheng (friend of Louisa Laverde), Stephen and Jean Fischer, Davida Goldman, Sister Angela (friend of Pastor Carol, David Kiehl, and Maria Barbera), LyAsia Beltre and her mother, Carol Dittbrenner, Gregory Fryer, Ann Wareham, Carlos Opio, and Sally Graudons.

Some Notes on Our Church Nave and Liturgy

- + Our congregation is one of the historic Lutheran churches in town, going back to the middle of the Civil War, 1863. We are a member of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The national bishop of the NALC is Rev. Daniel Selbo.
- + You might be interested to hear about our reredos the wooden altarpiece at the front of our church. It was hand carved by artists in Germany's Black Forest. The left statue is Moses, with the Ten Commandments in his left arm and the two horn-like rays of light shining forth from his face after his encounter with the Lord on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:29-30). The right-hand statue is St. John the Evangelist, with a
- quill pen in his hand and an eagle at his feet. And the center statue is Jesus Christ, the personal unity and the most perfect meaning of the Law (Moses) and the Gospel (St. John).
- Our painting of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, above the reredos, pays tribute to the founding liturgy of our congregation, Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 1863. Our painting shows Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the ground, so that at first glance you might think that it is a painting of the Ascension. But the saintly company with Jesus — Moses and Elijah on either side, with Peter, James, and John fallen down in awe at the sight point to the Transfiguration. Heaven

- knows and gives credit to the anonymous painter of our painting, but we note that it is in the style of Raphael's painting of *The Transfiguration* (1517-1520). Raphael also placed Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the disciples.
- + Our church windows were installed in 1973 and constitute a visual meditation on an ancient hymn of the Church, the *Te Deum*. Pamphlets are available in the rear of the church explaining the windows one by one.
- + Our church bells, named *Glaube*, *Hoffnung*, and *Liebe* for Faith, Hope, and Love, were a gift from German Empress Augusta Viktoria.

- + A hint about acoustics: you will be able to hear the choir and organ better if you sit toward the front half of the church. The overhanging choir balcony obscures some of the beauty of the music for those sitting under it.
- + Our worship book is the green hymnal, the *Lutheran Book of Worship* ("LBW"). This book contains both liturgies and hymns, with liturgies in the first half and hymns in the second. Sometimes we include hymns from *With One Voice* ("WOV") or from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ("ELW").
- + If you have a cell phone, please silence it for the liturgy. And please finish coffee or other drinks out in the narthex rather than in the main nave.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street ❖ New York, NY 10128 ❖ (212) 289-8128
Office Hours: 10 a.m. − 3 p.m. Monday - Friday
www.immanuelnyc.org
www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION	11 a.m. Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION	6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL	10 a.m. Sundays
BIBLE STUDY	In recess
PARISH SECRETARY	Karen Katz-Shea
SEXTON	Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER	
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER	Zac Schurman
CANTOR	Olivia Ericsson <u>oliviaer@umich.edu</u>
SEMINARY INTERN	Vicar Lara Bhasin
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
PASTOR	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Some Parish Ministry Opportunities:

CHOIR	Organist and Choirmaster Zac Schurmar
	zac.schurman@juilliard.edu
MEALS ON HEELS	Barbara Chomko (bchomko@nyc.rr.com

e extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that you will return. If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Carol Fryer. If you are interested in membership here at Immanuel, please contact the church office for an appointment with Pastor Carol. Or you can email her at ceafryer@gmail.com.

- + HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Church's faith, who confess it with us (as in the Creeds), and who may in good conscience receive the Sacrament in keeping with the understanding with which it is celebrated here: namely, that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and are distributed to and received by all who commune.
- + HOLY BAPTISM is celebrated and MARRIAGES solemnized only after consultation with the pastor well in advance. If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, homebound, or otherwise in need of the ministry of the Church, let us know. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gpfryer@gmail.com or ceafryer@gmail.com.
- → We mean for PRIVATE CONFESSION to be available as often as you need. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gpfryer@gmail.com or ceafryer@gmail.com.
- + LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL FOR THE SICK is available. Again, simply contact either Pastor Fryer.
- + FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: There is a long line of Christians, both rich and poor, who have disciplined themselves to budget a portion of their income, put it into an offering envelope first thing, and give it to the church. Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer live by that tradition and commend it to you. Online giving is also available through our website, or by following this QR code with your phone camera:

