
FULL VERSION
December 21, 2025

9:00 a.m.

***In Person, YouTube
& Facebook Live;***

Broadcast:

10:30 a.m. on

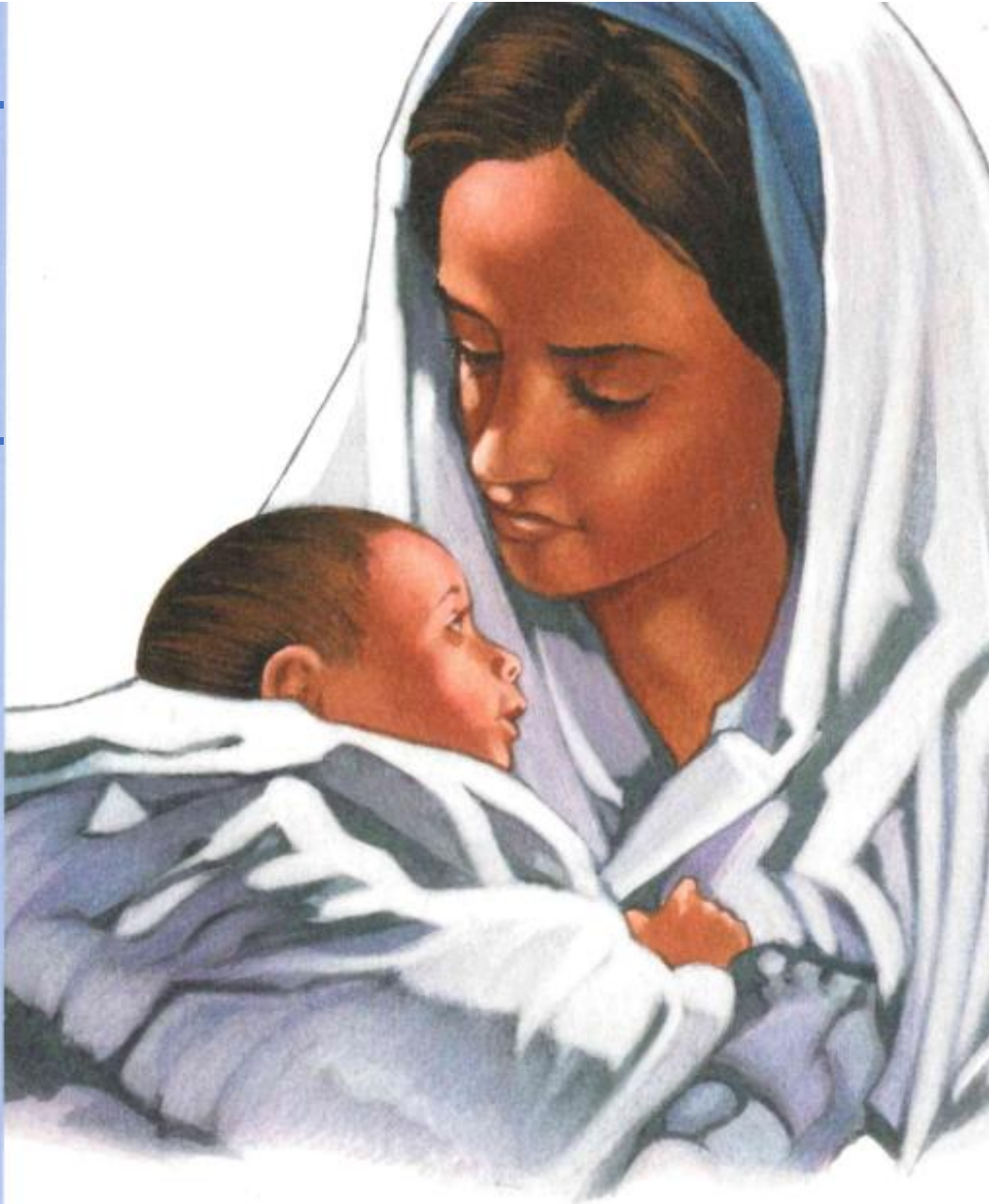
WLBK 1360 Radio

About the Cover:

The loving gaze
of a mother upon
her child is a
special thing.

When Mary
looked into the
eyes of her
newborn, she
was looking into
the eyes of God,
and He was
looking back at
her. Jesus is
Immanuel,
which means
“God with us.”

He looks upon
us with His
infinite and
never-ending
love. He poured
out His love on
the cross in
order to forgive
our sins and
have us forever.



They shall call His name

IMMANUEL

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

Rev. Marty Marks
Rev@godwithusilc.org

511 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115

December 21, 2025
8 a.m. in person, YouTube & FB live
10:30 a.m. Radio Service

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Theme for Worship This morning in our Gospel lesson our advent preparation reaches it's conclusion. While we don't hear the actual story of Jesus birth, we hear of Joesph's encounter with the Angel. We'll also gain some insights into who The Christ is, His name and how God's places Him into human history. We'll rejoice in His mission to save us from our sins while marvel at Him as Immanuel, "God with us!".

♪ **Pre-Service Music**

Adult Choir

The Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Candle Lighting Litany Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love

(The fourth candle is lit.)

Leader: Today we light 4 candles. The first three remind us of the hope, peace, and joy we have in Christ. This 4th candle represents love. As we watch and wait, we are called to prepare our hearts with the love of Christ, who is coming to us anew.

☪ Prepare the way of the Lord with love.

Leader: In a world often torn by division, we remember that Christ's love has the power to heal, to reconcile, and to bring peace.

☪ Prepare the way of the Lord with love.

Leader: Love calls us to action — may our hands and hearts be ready to serve, to care, and to share the love of Christ with those in need.

☪ Prepare the way of the Lord with love.

Leader: In moments of difficulty and despair, let the love of Christ be our anchor, reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

☪ Prepare the way of the Lord with love.

Leader: May the love of Christ fill our home, our communities, and our world, bringing light to the darkness and hope to the hopeless.

☪ Prepare the way of the Lord with love.

Leader: O God of love, help us to embody your love in our daily lives, sharing it freely and generously with all whom we encounter. As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, fill our hearts with love, and make us ready to embrace Christ in every moment.

☪ Prepare the way of the Lord with love.

♪ Opening Hymn: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

---LSB #343

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain***

Ref: **Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word!**

**2 God’s people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001197

The Sharing of the Peace

The Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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.

We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

♫ Kyrie

---LSB p.#152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy. **A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

C A - - - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

P & **C** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of The Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

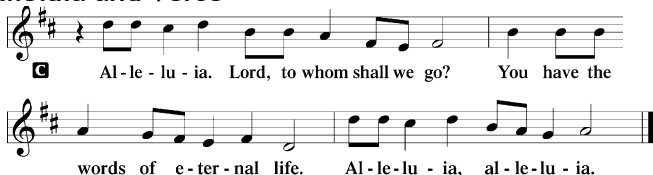
¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

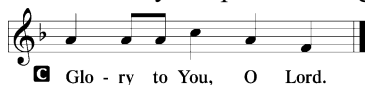
LSB p. #156



Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew the 1st chapter.



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he

did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.



[C] Praise to You, O Christ.

♪ Hymn of the Day: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

---LSB #356

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!
- 2 “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!

Text: Public domain

Sermon: “Immanuel”

Rev. Marty Marks

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.

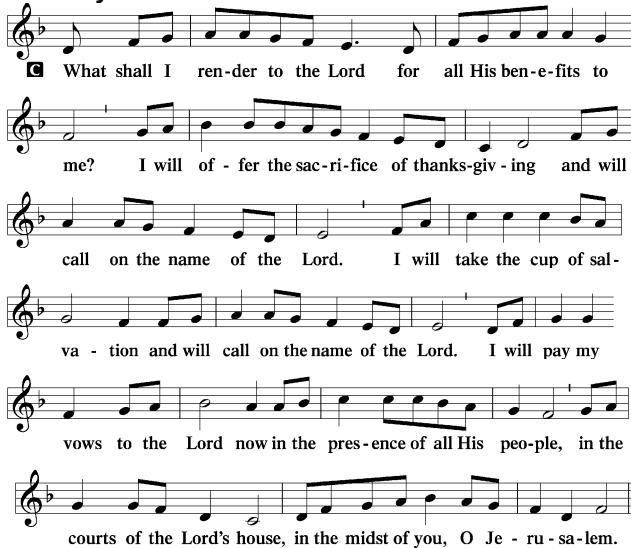
The Offering - the plates are brought forward

(An offering plate is available in the narthex; plates will not be passed during the worship service.

Immanuel has the ability to accept offerings through online giving. Families can easily give one-time or set up as recurring gifts. Simply make a secure donation via electronic check by visiting www.ImmanuelDeKalb.com. If you choose to set up a recurring gift, you will be prompted by email to create your own online donor account to manage your gifts.)

♫ Offertory

LSB p. #159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

Announcements

Prayers of the Church

*The Leader says prayers for specific and general concerns of God's people, following each petition with "Lord in your mercy" to which the congregation responds with "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Service of the Sacrament

(The Lord's Supper is celebrated in this service in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. If you share this confession, we invite you to commune with us. If you have doubts or questions concerning this confession of our faith community, we ask that you withhold participation until receiving clarification or instruction from our pastor. The pastor will also offer a blessing to any unconfirmed children who desire it. Special instruction about how to partake in the supper will be explained during the service in response to Covid-19 precautions.)

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

P Lift up your hearts,

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C And also with you.

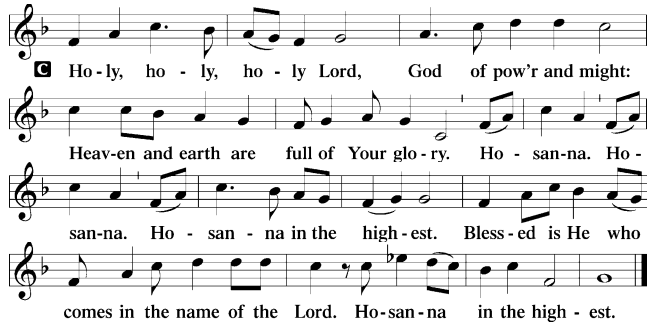
C We lift them to the Lord.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the

Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

♪ Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

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

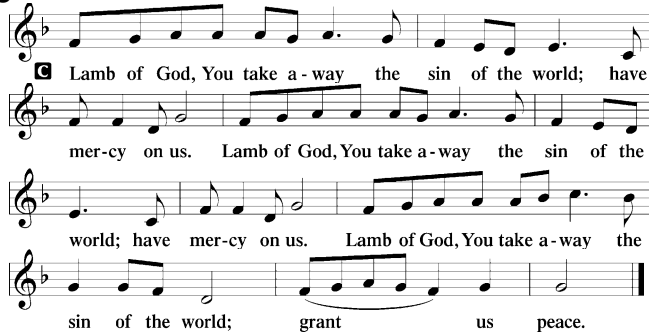
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen

♪ Agnus Dei



Four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

♪ Distribution Hymns:

♪ “Arise, O Christian People”

- 1 Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.
- 2 Prepare the way before Him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,
This great, this heav’nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.
- 3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord’s delight.

---LSB #354

**4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.**

Text: Public domain

♪ “Come, Thou Precious Ransome, Come”

---LSB #350

**1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.**

**2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!**

**3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.**

**4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.**

Text: Public domain

♪ Post Communion Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

---LSB #357 v.1 & 4-7

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

ref: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. *Refrain***

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain***

- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain***

Text: Public domain

Benediction

Silent Prayers

Postlude

December 21, 2025	
Altar Guild: Carolyn McQuillan	
9:00 a.m.	
Musicians	Linda Conrad, <i>Organist</i> C-J Motisi, <i>Soloist & Pianist</i>
Pastor	Rev. Marty Marks
Acolyte	Rosie Landshaft
Lay Reader	Pat McKinley
Radio Narrator	Chris Ewald
Videographer/Sound	Mark Misic
Slides	Doug Nelson
Ushers	Dan Lohmeier & Will Michels
Communion Assist.	Ken Boldt & Will Michels

THE WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST EACH SUNDAY AT 10:30 A.M. ON WLBK 1360.

Altar Flowers: “In loving memory of my parents, Ray & Lorrain Oldham,” by Gail Cantrell & Andi Fant.

Radio Broadcast: “To the glory of God and in thanks for His many blessings,” the people of Immanuel.

TO BE A SPONSOR: Contact the office to reserve a date.

Cost: \$45 Flowers.

\$250 One-hour radio broadcast of the church service; \$125 Half-sponsorships are also available.

Make your check out to Immanuel, with a notation on the memo line saying, “flowers,” or “radio.”

These checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

OPEN FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS: December-Full;

(2026): January 4, 11 & 18; February 8 & 15; March 8 & 15;

OPEN RADIO SPONSORSHIPS: December-Full;

(2026): January 4, 11, 18 & 25; February 8; March 15, 22 & 29;

Rev. Marty Marks, Pastor 815-501-3951; rev@godwithusilc.org

C-J Motisi, Adult Choir Director, LCMS certified Lay Minister cj.emsc@gmail.com 630-664-8005

Katie Martinez, Pre-School Director, 815-756-6669 (o); LittleLambs@godwithusilc.org

Darlene Hillman, Office Manager, 815-756-6669; office@godwithusilc.org

Alma Sanchez, Secretary, almas@immanueldekalb.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CHURCH PHONE: 815-756-6669; 756-6675; **Fax:** 815-756-9585

OFFICE E-MAIL: office@godwithusilc.org

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.ImmanuelDeKalb.com