



Incarnation Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

December 31, 2017; 10am – First Sunday of Christmas

Nursery will be available today in the CDC Building from 9:30-12:30!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please silence your devices at this time

PRELUDE

CONFESSION

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High,
✙ one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered in the name of Jesus,
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,
**in Christ Jesus you come among us
as light shining in darkness.**

We confess our failure to welcome this light.

**Forgive us and renew our hope,
so that we may live in the light of your grace,
and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:

To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Your sins are forgiven in ✙ Jesus' name. **Amen.**

GATHERING CAROL 275

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

GREETING

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

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king;
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all you nations, rise;
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain*

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
 Hail, incarnate deity!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME *ALL AGES children invited to come to the altar steps for conversation and bucket offering.*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being 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 with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148

- ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
- ²Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
- ³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- ⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
- ⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,
- ⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
- ⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- ⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
- ⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- ¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;
- ¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- ¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.
- ¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7

- ⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated

THE SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

PASTOR DERMON SOX

The assembly stands.

CAROL OF THE DAY 296

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes "Lord, in your mercy," We respond: **hear our prayer.***

PEACE *The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider as the offering and communion elements are brought forward.

OFFERTORY 302

As With Gladness Men of Old vs.3

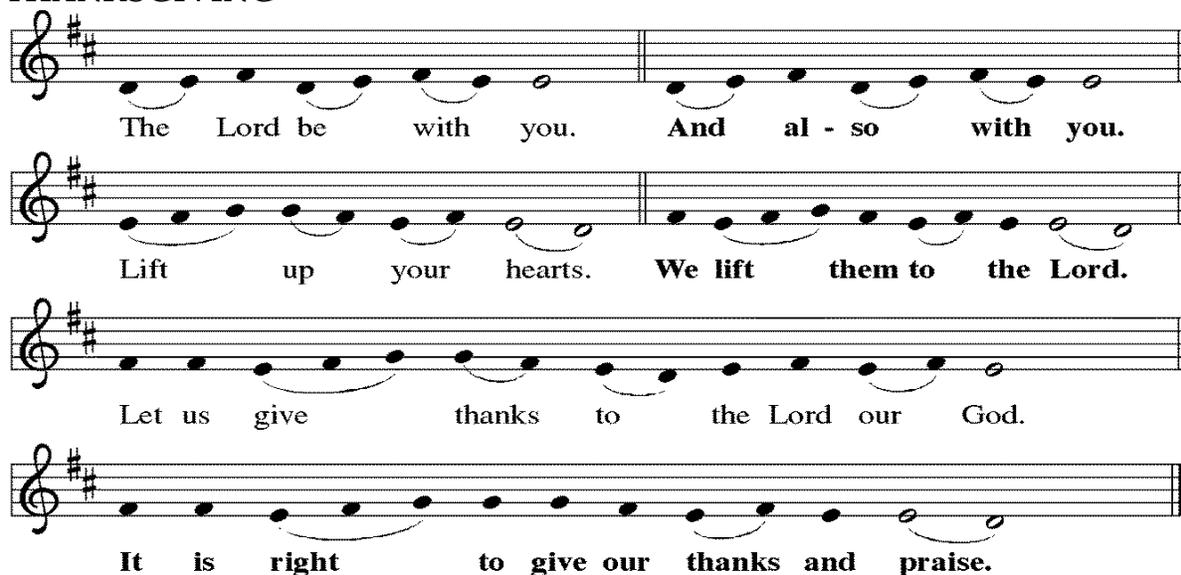
DIX

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

OFFERING PRAYER

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND CAROL RESPONSE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in communion, trusting that Christ promises to be truly present. Whole wheat communion bread is served. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Red communion wine is served: the first cup is a common cup (for drinking from) and the second cup is for intinction (dipping the bread). Those unable to partake of both elements are assured that the Church affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. Those who choose not to receive Communion are welcome to come forward to the altar railing for a blessing.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN 299

Cold December Flies Away

EL DESEMBER CONGELAT

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Leader



Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

All



Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All



Now, Lord, you have set your ser - vant free, free to go in peace as you have

All

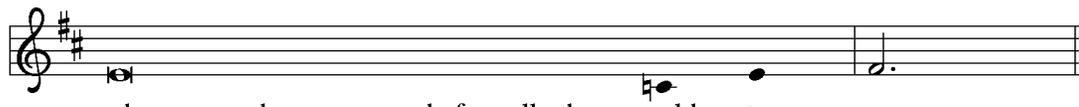


prom - ised. Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All



For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior



whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

All



Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All



a light to en - lighten the nations, and the glory of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

All



Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

SENDING

God send us out to be Christ's body in the world, sharing what we have heard and seen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING CAROL 288

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Nursery will be available today in the CDC Building from 9:30-12:30!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers:	Team 2
Lay Assistant:	Ethan Overcash
Crucifer:	Aidan DeJames
Acolytes:	Pierson DeJames, Gabi Nester
Lector:	Pierson DeJames
Communion Assistants:	Mary Kehl, Teresa Boykin
Eucharist Minister:	Mary Kehl

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Ken Gehler	01/01	Carolyn Rast	01/01
Russell Rushe	01/01	Kay Rushe	01/01
Stacey Meyer	01/01	Jill Whitaker	01/01
Donald Brown	01/01	Emily Black	01/01
Duncan Norton	01/01	Mariel Norton	01/01

BIRTHDAYS

Kristina Militello	12/31	Jill Whitaker	12/31
Melanie Mooney	12/31	Patrick Keating	01/01
Martha Anne Boozer	01/04	John Nester	01/04
Thomas Rabern	01/04	McRee Smoak	01/06

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Pastor Dermon Sox and his wife Jean to Incarnation this morning. Pastor Sox has supplied for us in the past and daughter, Diana Edis, completed her seminary field week with us. Pastor Sox is a retired ELCA pastor who served many South Carolina congregations in his more than fifty years of active ministry. Welcome, Pastor Dermon and Jean!

Christmas Eve Thank You! A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make our Christmas Eve Communion Service so wonderful and so beautiful. The talents shared by Nickie Riley along with our youth, musicians, chancel choir and handbell choir are greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Grace Sawicki for singing our surprise solo "Mary, Did You Know".

Ten Commandments Class-- Advertising is a multibillion-dollar industry whose goal is to make every one of us believe we can never be happy with what we have. Come to Sunday school on the 10 commandments starting January 7th to remember that happiness comes not from what we have but who we are.

HOLD THE DATE! As you know, we are moving to a discipleship ministry model where the gifts of all are used for the sake of the gospel in the world. On *Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 9am-lunch* at the council retreat, we will be focusing on the structure and function of ministry teams. If you are interested in serving on any of these teams- *please plan to attend this morning session*. Please notify the office if you plan to attend so we can adequately plan for lunch. All are welcome!

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE! *Please do not delay* in getting these reports in to the office (Word .docx, .doc file or .pdf for financial reports). Reports are required from all staff, council officers, partner ministries, ministry team chairpersons, and other essential committees. Talk to Pastor Jane or the office if you have questions.

Please remember to make end-of-year charitable deductions TODAY- 12/31!
Use our ONLINE GIVING button on the website for your convenience!

Financial Report: as of 12/24	Actual	Plan	Difference
Last Week	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,790	\$ -190-
Month-to-Date	\$ 10,856	\$ 11,370	\$ -324-
Year-to-Date	\$ 207,124	\$ 219,844	\$ -12,720-

Visit www.incarnationlutheran.com for bulletins, online giving, and more

Wifi Access: ILC_Members_5G PW: @ilc1921

*Wishing you a Blessed and Happy New Year—
The Incarnation Lutheran Church Staff*

WORSHIP RESPONSE

MUSIC

What hymn or song had special meaning for you? _____ Why?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

(The bulletin will list the passages to be read. Keep your bulletin for reference!)

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Gospel: _____

1. What happened or was described in the Gospel reading today (or in the main scripture used by the preacher)?

2. What did you learn from the sermon about God or Jesus?

3. What was said in the sermon that you think is important for Christians to remember?

4. What part of the worship service felt most “worshipful” to you? (prayers, singing, Confession, Communion, Children’s Message, choir music, sermon, offering, greeting others, or some other part) Why?



Current Concerns

Jones Anderson, Troop 8 Scout

Jeremy and Nicole Wade and their extended family

Naama Wrightman, friend of Elizabeth Thebo

Eugenie Regnery, Eugenie Parker's mother

Sarah Parker, Mike Parker's mother

Mary Steadman, friend of Mary Crosby

Bobby Wierich

Harry Evans

Alden Pratt

CA wildfire victims

San Pablo Lutheran Church, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

Pastor Jane Mitcham

Pastor

pastor@incarnationlutheran.com

Nickie Riley

Music Director & Organist

music@incarnationlutheran.com

Ethan Overcash

Youth Minister

youth@incarnationlutheran.com

Kris Esgar

Parish Administrator

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Amy Kehl

Bookkeeper

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER STAFF

Teresa Boykin

Director of Child Development Centers

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