

Sermon: "Vengeance and Joy" Isaiah 35:1-10
Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14, 2025
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
Okawville, Illinois 62271
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

We gather on the Lord's Day knowing that "Christ being raised from the dead will never die again" (Romans 6:9). Welcome, visitors who have joined us today. If we can help in any way, please call: Church 618-243-6216 or School 618-243-6142.

Pastor Eric Wood

Phone: 618-243-2846

Email: myhomeontherange@juno.com

Principal Kelli Borrenpohl

Phone: 618-243-6142

Email: principal@immanuelokawville.org

Immanuel Website: Immanuelokawville.org

Saturday: 16 Communed: 12 Sunday: 78 Communed: 62 Advent: 16

Bible Class: 11 Sunday School: 25

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer concerns to be included in our public prayers may be shared with Pastor Wood and/or the church office. Prayers may be for particular individuals or concerning wider issues. Let us pray!

- All members of Immanuel including:
 - At home - Adeline Blumhorst, Bill Durham, Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Janet Lange, Linda Schuetz, Jackie Schwankhaus, Stanley Schwankhaus, Crystal Strasburg, Mike Strasburg
 - At Brightly in Mascoutah - Leonard Hemminghaus
 - At Evercare of Breese - Lois Rabenort
 - At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado - Carol Wennemann
- Non-members: Lisa Arbogast-Eilers, an ILS graduate; Crystal Hasheider, wife of Matt Hasheider; Deborah Hasheider, cousin-in-law of several of our members; ILS Kindergarten teacher, Jody Liszewski; Tim Schnitker, son-in-law of Sharon Storck.
- That the Lord would continue to provide for his work in this place through generous giving, willing workers, and wise stewardship.
- The staff, faculty, and students of Immanuel Lutheran School
- The educational mission of Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School
- All who work or study in West Washington County Schools
- John Trinklein, second-year student at Concordia Seminary
- Reverend Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores, serving in Chile
- The mission work of the Southern Illinois District, including...
 - ...all congregations, schools, and district leaders
 - ...rural and small-town congregational support
 - ...urban ministry (neighborhood renewal and Unity school) in East St. Louis
 - ...campus ministry and international student outreach at SIU-C and SIU-E
 - ...prison and jail ministry in many locations
 - ...partnership with seminary in Dominican Republic
 - ...disaster response ministry (LERT) ...Advocates for Life

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Order of Service - Prayer and Preaching

349 Hark the Glad Sound (Sunday)

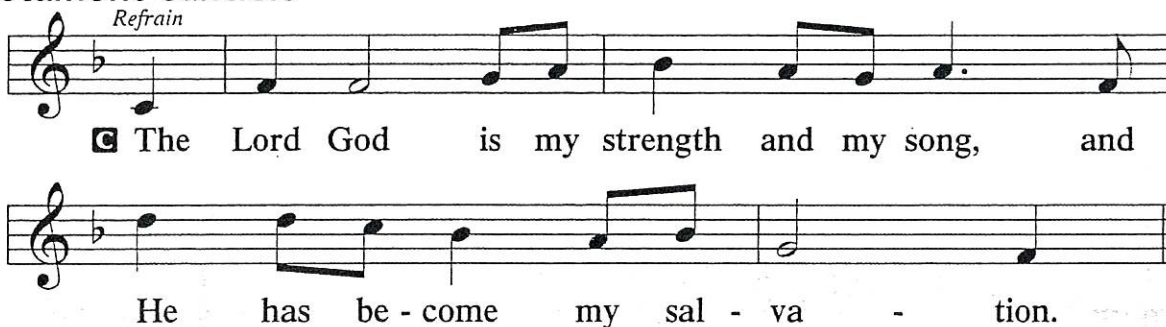
Stand

Opening Versicles

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.
- L** Prepare the way of the Lord.
C Make His paths straight.
- L** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
C Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticle

Refrain



C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has become my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."



Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



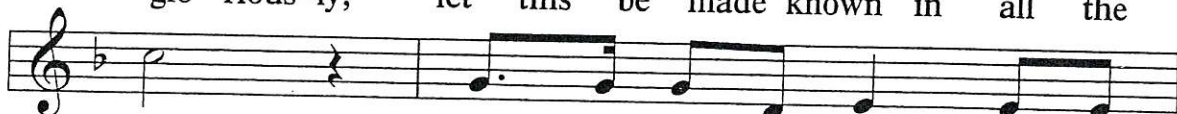
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -



hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



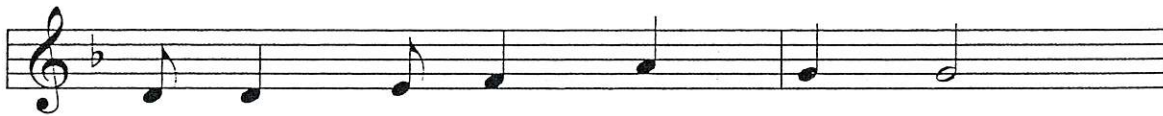
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son



and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will



be for - ev - er. A - men.



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Readings From Holy Scripture

Psalm 146

¹Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

³Put not your trust in | princes,*
in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*
on that very day his plans | perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is | in them,*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

⁷who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the | righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,*
but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign for- | ever,*
your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Catechism Review (The Lord's Prayer 5th Petition - Conclusion) LSB pp.324-325

Apostles' Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Sit

Children's Message (Sunday)

Sermon "Vengeance and Joy"

Isaiah 35:1-10

387 Joy to the World (Saturday)

669 Come, We That Love the Lord (Sunday)

Offering

Stand

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

G **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind,
let us pray to the Lord:

G **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the
proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

G **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us
all, let us pray to the Lord:

G **Lord, have mercy.**

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

G **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who
travel, let us pray to the Lord:

G **Lord, have mercy.**

- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- G** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

- G** 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.

Collect of the Day

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

Evening Prayer (Saturday)

- G** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

Morning Prayer (Sunday)

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

New Testament Canticle



C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to
 sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.
Refrain
 Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -
 lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Blessing

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

387 Joy to the World (Sunday)

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book
 Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Pastor:	Eric Wood
Pianists: (Saturday)	Sophia Wood
(Sunday)	Eric Wood
Acolytes: (Saturday)	Collins Schumacher
(Sunday)	Sadie Bergman
Readers: (Saturday)	Jackie Benington
(Sunday)	Deb Gues

Birthdays: 14th Crystal Strasburg, 16th Darren Eggemann, 17th John Elliott, Aaron Schuetz William Horvath, 18th Ryerson Kramper, 19th Stanley Schwankhaus, 20th Tara Harre

December Ushers – Saturday –

Sunday – Mark Schneider and Dennis Pruehsner

Saturday service at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. Bible class topic is “Every Heart Prepare”.

Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Public Catechesis is this Monday at 6:45 a.m.

Community Bible Study is this Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at Bunkers.

Chapel at 12:15 p.m. this Wednesday with Pastor Wood

Advent Service is this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:30 p.m. this Wednesday

Extra copies of the December newsletter are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself or someone else.

January 2026 newsletter information is needed in the church office by Tuesday December 23rd.

SCHOOL NEWS

End of 2nd quarter is Friday, December 19th

Christmas Break is Monday, December 22nd – Friday, January 2nd

The VFW and ILS are interested in hosting a blood drive at ILS and needs to conduct a interest survey. If you are interested in donating blood please add your name, email and phone # to the list on the small table in the Narthex.

Immanuel Wee Care is looking for a daycare worker to help a few days or more per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Cheri Kurtz at 618 243-6161.

You can help the school financially by doing the following: Shop With Raiseright – For complete information visit www.shopwithraiseright.com Checks payable to ILS PTL. Go to smile.amazon.com/ch37-0916756 and Amazon donates to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Okawville. Participate in the **Kroger Community Rewards** program. Join Casey's Rewards today and donate to our school. This is for instore, online or at the pump purchases.

GENERAL NOTES

Life Thoughts in the Church Year: God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

Life Quotes: "And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God." *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Stewardship: Isaiah 35:4 – "Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'" The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Lutheran programs on Radio & TV on Sundays – 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 850 AM Radio KFUEO Lutheran Worship from a Lutheran church; 9:00 a.m. 104.7 FM Rev. Mueller, New Minden Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. TV Station "TCT" "Lutheran Worship." These are not a replacement for being in church and Bible class. These are for times when we are unable to attend in person.

COMMUNITY NOTES

German Christmas Service: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Covington, will host a German Christmas service (*Der Weihnachtsgottesdienst*) on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., in celebration of St. Luke's 140th Anniversary. Rev. Dr. Darwin P. Schrader will preach the Christmas message, and Rev. Dr. Arthur D. Eichhorn will accompany the singing of many beloved German Christmas carols. A German-English printed order of service will be furnished, and worshipers will go home with a German-English text of the sermon. *Gemütlichkeit* (fellowship hour) will follow in the Covington Township Hall. After expenses, the proceeds of the offering have been designated for Lutheran Braille Workers Workcenter #315 at New Minden. [St. Luke's is located between Okawville and New Minden, one mile north of IL 177 on Covington Road.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Wednesday, December 3, Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7 were as follows: Current \$350.00, Home Use \$1,875.00, Loose \$51.00, and Advent \$30.00.

Expenses for the week: \$223.45

Loan Balance: \$45,000.00

Thrivent Choice

If you have not contacted Thrivent Choice Recently, please call 800-847-4836 to see if Thrivent has money set aside for you to designate to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran School or another designation of your choice. Money is available through the Thrivent Choice Program. This is not a donation coming out of your investment.

Reminder: Bunker's Restaurant (Golf Course) will give 10% to Immanuel Lutheran Church if you show your bulletin from church when eating on Sundays. Thank you for your support!! RBM Golf Course