



[Sit]

**WORD**

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

*First Reading*

Malachi 3:1-4

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,**

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

**Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,**

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

**in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
**to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

*Second Reading*

Philippians 1:3-11

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

[Stand]

*Gospel Acclamation*



*Nicene Creed*

Inside front cover of hymnal

*Prayers of Intercession*

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

The prayers end with:

Alert and on guard for the coming of the Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with fellow worshipers*

[Sit]

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*Offering*

[Stand]

*Offering Song*      **“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”**      **ELW 184**

*Offering Prayer*

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. From all that you have given us, receive these gifts, signs of our thanksgiving and praise.

Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

**Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving*

*Pages 152-154*

**Thanksgiving and Preface**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

*Gospel*

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 3:1-6

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

[Sit]

*Sermon*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

[Stand]

*Hymn of the Day*      **“Prepare the Royal Highway”**      **ELW 264**

## *Lamb of God*

### *Invitation to Communion*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

[Sit]

### *Communion*

**“Let Us Break Bread Together”**

**ELW 471**

**“Break Now the Bread of Life”**

**ELW 515**

**“Jesus Loves Me!”**

**ELW 595**

[Stand]

### *Prayer after Communion*

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### *Blessing*

The God of hope strengthen your hearts as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all the saints.

Almighty God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Hymn*      **“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”**      **ELW 246**

### *Dismissal*

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Ringing of the bell*

*Announcements*

## **Open Forum At St Matthew**

today after service in parish hall.

## **Invitation to Sarah Circle of Immanuel**

You and your husband, etc.  
are invited to a Family Supper and Bible Study  
at LeeRoy and Doris Kramer  
Wednesday, Dec 9 at 6:30 pm

## **Choir Notes Immanuel December 2009**

**The choir will meet and practice at 8 AM and sing on December 6, 13, and 20<sup>th</sup>. We will sing songs of the season. We welcome all singers! We will not practice or sing on December 27<sup>th</sup>.**

## **St Matthew Flower Chart**

Please sign up to bring flowers to enrich our worship experience in 2010. Chart is in the entry.

## **Bible Study**

Monday, December 7 - Acts 12:20-25, pg 189-192 - 1:00 pm at Immanuel and at the home of Dayton and Sandy Wodrich at 7:00 pm.

## **Immanuel & St Matthew Offering Envelopes**

The offering envelopes are available to be picked up at Church.

## **First Communion**

Alexis Chaudron, Spencer Flynn, Cheyenne Ridings, and Gracie Westerfeld are receiving First Communion today.

**The Brenham Chorale** will present a concert of "Oxford Christmas Carols" tomorrow, December 7th at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Jason Phillips is the Director, and Ann Sommer is the Accompanist. Admission is free.

### Serving Us Today...

	St Matthew	Immanuel
<b>Organists</b>	Frances Scheffer	Lois Holle
<b>Readers</b>	Dayton Wodrich	Tatum Westerfeld Colleen Bentke
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Stanley Sommer</b> Mark Niebuhr Bubba Brewton	<b>Bill Yawn</b> Eugene Bothe
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	Sandra & Dayton Wodrich	Virginia Tappe in memory of Harold Tappe, Sr.
<b>Acolyte / Communion Assistant</b>	Mark Niebuhr	Gracie Westerfeld

### Calendar & Upcoming Events...

- Today** - Immanuel choir practice 8:00 am  
 Worship w/ Holy Communion 8:30 am Immanuel  
 Sunday School at 9:30 am  
 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:30 am St Matthew  
 Open Forum @ St Matthew following service  
 Immanuel Sunday School and Youth caroling 3 pm  
 Meet at Church Back about 5 for Pizza after caroling
- Mon** - Bible Study 1:00 PM @ Immanuel  
 Bible Study 7:00 PM @ Sandra & Dayton Wodrich
- Wed** - Both Ruth & Sarah circle meeting @ Doris Kramer's @ 6:30 pm
- Thurs** – Brenham Nursing Home service @ 10:30 am
- Sat** – Second Saturday Breakfast & Fellowship @ Immanuel @ 8 am
- Sun Dec 13** – Immanuel choir practice 8:00 am  
 Worship 8:30 am Immanuel  
 Brunch following service for the entire congregation hosted by WELCA of Immanuel  
 Sunday Schools 9:30 am  
 WELCA Bible Study at St Matthew 9:30 am  
 Worship 10:30 am St Matthew  
 Coop Confirmation @ 3 pm @ Immanuel

### Volunteers Serving in the Community

Lay Visitors – Immanuel – Delivering bulletins  
 Erma Luetge is serving in December.

**Sign up sheet for 2010 is in parish hall.**

Senior Meals - Those delivering meals for Washington County Healthy Living Association from both Immanuel and St Matthew are Pastor Abbott and Louise.

### IMMANUEL WELCA BRUNCH

**Join us for brunch after church on Sunday, December 13. The Women of the Church are hosting this brunch for the congregation . All are invited. Please come and help us celebrate this joyous season together.**

### Nursing Home Service

Join Pastor on Thursday, December 10 at 10:30 am for the service at Brenham Rest Home.

### Immanuel WELCA Installation of Officers Sunday, December 13 During 8:30 am church service

#### Immanuel - Second Saturday

The Immanuel church council invites everyone to "Second Saturday" at 8:00 am Saturday, December 12 Breakfast provided. We will have time for fellowship. Wilburn & Patty Addicks, Bubba & Shirley Dreyer, Janice McClendon and Charlie Schroeder are hosting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.  
 A signup sheet is in the parish hall for anyone interested in making/bringing breakfast in 2010.

#### Pastor Abbott

**Call** - 251-4992 - Pastor Abbott's cell phone –  
**E-Mail** pastorabbott@earthlink.net – for Pastor Abbott  
**St Matthew: Call** - 836-8894 – the office @ St Matthew  
**E-mail** - smichurch@hotmail.com  
**Website** – stmatthewbrenham.org  
**Immanuel: Call** - 836-6780 – the office @ Immanuel.  
**E-mail** - smichurch@hotmail.com

### **Members in Nursing Homes or shut in...**

Margaret Heideman Lorena Randermann  
Louise Bell Loesch Ruth Koester Mary Helen Cade  
Bob Eccleston Alfred Gaskamp Nelda Gaskamp  
Martha Clough

### **Those seeing doctors, continuing treatments and/or recovering from surgery...**

Trenton Stewart Barbara Hollis Don Bolenbarr  
Raleigh Wellmann Renee Lambert Mildred Moehlmann  
Carrie Scheffer Jerry Watson Tim Wellmann  
Mike Hodges

### **In our extended family...**

The full prayer list is in the December newsletter. Those listed below have been added or updated in the last few weeks. If you want someone added or wish to report their improvements, please let Pastor Abbott know, 251-4992
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Robert Terrian – son-in-law of Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus  
Lauren Davis – friend of many  
David Ryan Fuller – friend of Pam Schroeder  
Doris Jankowiak – friend of many  
Shawn Presnell – Barbara Hollis' daughter  
Ray Goehring – Barbara Hollis's brother  
Leroy Boenker – cousin of Renee Lambert  
Gregory Rybarski – brother of Christie Schroeder  
Michael Danford – nephew of Doris and Bob Burk  
Levi Luvaas – father of Marlene Randermann  
Frank Dickschat – uncle of Renee Lambert  
Donald Carter – son of Barbara Hollis  
Butch Kevorkian - Philip Kelling's biological father  
Ruby McLain - Aunt of Barbara Kramer & Dorothy Schulte  
Jenny Sebastian – Amanda (Wellmann) Sebastian's sister in law  
Katherine Kenjura - Edna Schroeder's niece  
Bonnie Benkowski – friend of many  
Louese Teer – Aunt of Trochelle Ray  
Bernice Heinsohn – mother of Clyde, a friend of Henry Al Ellermann  
Jocine Hanath – Friend of Stanley Sommer  
Wayman Bradley – brother of Don Bradley  
Chris Strong – friend of Kim Hodde  
Jimbo Hardin – nephew of Pauline Hodges

### **Thanksgiving for Improvements or Good News...**

Elmo Emshoff