



Immanuel  
Lutheran  
of Evanston

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 12, 2017**

**10:30 A.M.**

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# Welcome!

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.**

**We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.**

**We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.**

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card from the pew, and we'll be happy to send information on how you can get involved at Immanuel.

## Facilities

- Our parking lot is located on the south side of the church off Sherman Avenue. You may park in the lot at any time, whether for church events or for shopping or other errands in downtown Evanston; weekdays, see the church office at the Lake St. entrance to get a parking pass. On Sundays, additional parking is available across the street at the Holiday Inn or in Lot 6 on Lake St. across from the Police and Fire Headquarters. Parking meters are free on Sunday!
- The parking lot entrance is an accessible entrance. An elevator is located just inside that door.
- Restrooms are downstairs near the meeting of the two hallways. Accessible restrooms are located near the elevator on both upper and lower levels. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the lower level by the elevator.
- We love having children in worship! There is a nursery and changing/crying room for parents to use, if needed, located downstairs. There are also changing tables in both restrooms on this level, by the elevator. An usher will be happy to direct you.
- Hearing assistance is available. Ask an usher for equipment.
- Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the building. The network is "Immanuel," password "allarewelcome". Please use the Internet responsibly!

## About Our Worship

Our Sunday worship is organized around the proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It has a familiar form each week, but the content changes for each service according to a calendar shared with many other Christians. Our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is organized so that page numbers for the liturgy are in the front part of the book, while hymn numbers are in the second part. The liturgy and hymns are printed in this bulletin, but page numbers are provided for those who wish to follow along in the hymnal.

## Receiving Holy Communion

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal, because Christ himself invites you! At the direction of the usher, come forward and kneel at the altar rail, if you are able, beginning at the ends of the rail closest to the front wall, filling in toward the center. (If you cannot kneel, standing is fine!) Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. You may eat it immediately, then take the silver chalice and drink from it or, if you prefer, hold the bread and dip it in the ceramic chalice and then eat the moistened bread. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please indicate to the pastor if you need that. Return to your place via the side aisles after you have communed. If you need to have Communion brought to you, please sit on the aisle, and let either the pastor or an usher know before the service that you would like to commune at your seat. If you desire a blessing but not the sacrament, you are invited to come forward with everyone else and fold your arms over your chest to indicate this.

## Gathering: *The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...*

*Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.*

**P:** Presiding Minister    **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister    **R:** Reader    **A:** Assembly  
+ All may make the sign of the cross.

### Pre-Service Music

*Selections from Alain, Bach, Franck and Langlais*

### Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the + holy Trinity,  
the one who fashions us,  
the one who heals us,  
the one who reforms us again and again.

**A Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Source of all life,

**A we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.**

**We fear that we are not good enough.**

**We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.**

**Forgive us. Stir us.**

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,**

**willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just,**

**and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us

and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven.

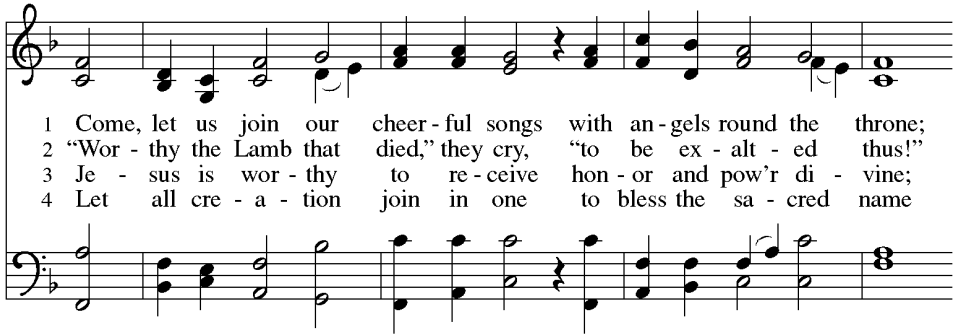
God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people  
who will always be made new, in the name of + Jesus Christ.

**A Amen.**

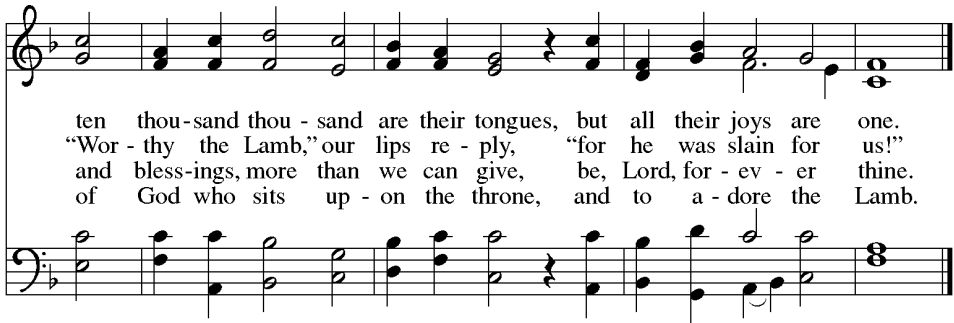
## Gathering Song

## "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs" Hymnal 847

*Please turn to face the doors. You may reverence the cross as it passes you.*



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;  
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## Greeting

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

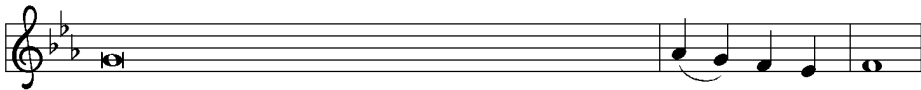
**A And also with you!**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



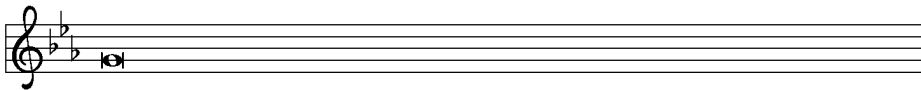
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



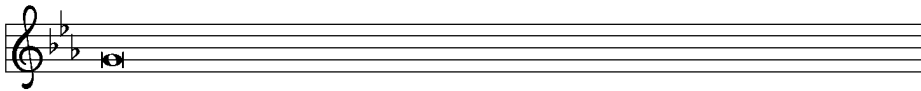
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

[cont.]



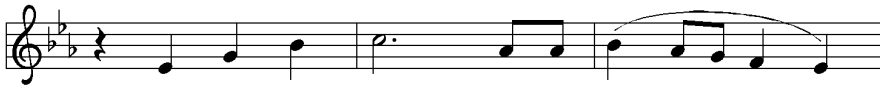
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Canticle

Hymnal, p. 99



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

[cont.]

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A** Amen.

### Welcome and Announcements

*The Assembly is seated.*

### Talking about Generosity

Stephen Warner

**Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

**Amos 5:18-24**

R A reading from the Prophet Amos.

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**



# Psalm 70

# ELW Psalm Tone 9

The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through.  
The right side of the Assembly sings lightface verses to the tone, and the left sings boldfaced verses.  
All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

### Tone:



### Refrain:



You are my help - er and my de - liv - er - er;



O LORD, do not tar - ry.

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;  
O LORD, make | haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**  
**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. R**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me  
turn back because | of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**  
**let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. R

R A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

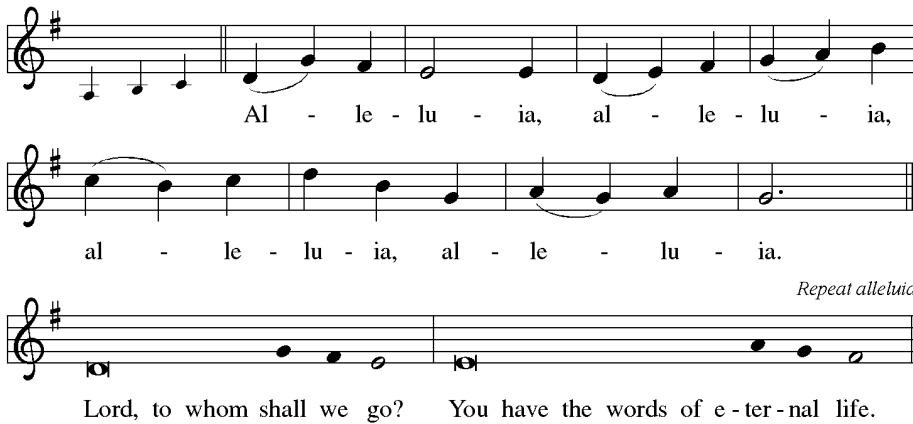
R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**

*The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.*

Gospel Acclamation

Hymnal, p. 102



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

## Gospel

Matthew 25: 1-22

P This is the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**A Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**A Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The Alleluia of the Gospel Acclamation is sung once again.  
The Assembly is then seated.*

## Sermon

*A bell will chime to begin a time of silence for reflection.  
When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word.*



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

## The Apostles' Creed

L With the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## Prayer for Discernment of Leaders

### Prayers of the People

L Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

L Awaken your church to be ready to respond when Christ meets us in the cries of those in need. We lift up the church's mission of care through Lutheran World Relief and other agencies. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Kevin, for our council, and for all the baptized. Help us to work for justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L We give thanks for natural resources like oil, coal, trees, sun, water, and wind. Help us to use them wisely. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L Answer the cries of your people in nations caught in war and destruction, especially in Syria. Hold in your care all veterans and their families. Ease the burden of tough memories and bring restoration and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L Shine your merciful and healing light on the despairing places of our minds and souls. Bring hope in the midst of danger, depression, and illness. We pray especially for Serena Bernstein, Mid Carlson, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Barb Engelsen, Bob Fried, Jennifer Grethe, Dick Heisler, Judy Hokenson, Arda Hovnanian, Bob Larson, Ron Laudert, Carol Rakowsky, George Schiff, Joe Skelton, the family of Willi Steurer, John and Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts [...]. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L We pray for the people of First Baptist Church, Sutherland, Texas, and for that community. We pray for our nation, O God, where violence and gunfire and bloodshed surround us, causing the innocent to suffer. Make us bold to demand action from our leaders and from one another to change this situation and establish justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

*The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.*

L Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L Keep us alert for Christ's coming, sustained by the promise that we will be reunited with all the faithful who have died, remembering especially Elizabeth of Hungary. Thank you for their lives of witness. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

P Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A Amen.**

## **Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the peace of the Risen Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.*

*If you prefer not to shake hands, you might raise your hand in a gesture of blessing as you speak peace to your neighbors. After the Peace, all return to their seats.*

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

**Offering**      *An offering is gathered for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.*

**Offering Music**

*"Keep Your Lamps!"    arr. Andre Thomas*

**Presentation of the Gifts**

*"Come to the Table of Mercy"*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.



## Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

**A God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.

**A And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**A We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Preface

P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for your mysteries well up from ancient depths, assuring us that we will be with you forever. In the first of your mighty works, you created the earth and filled it with life. Through your prophets, you called your chosen people to lives in which justice would roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

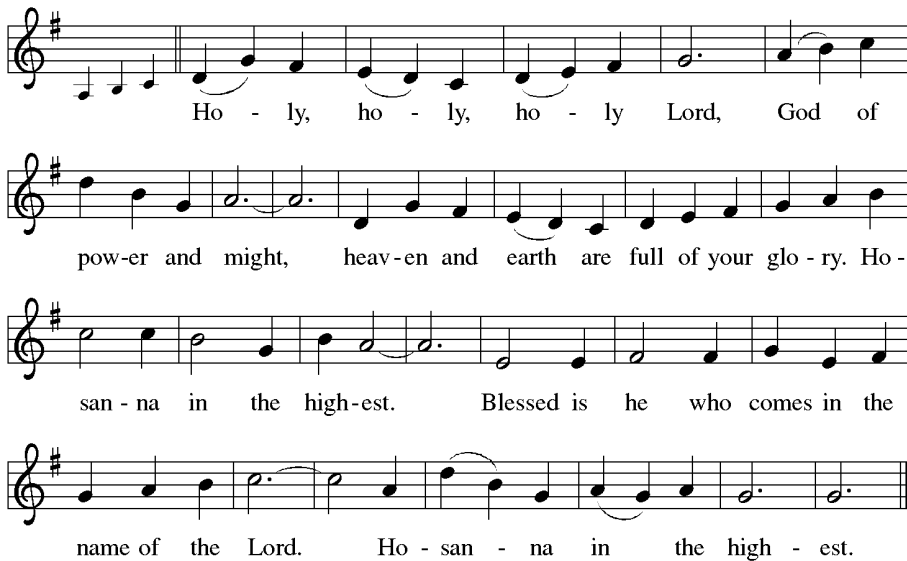
When we failed to choose justice and life, you sent your child Jesus to establish your Reign of justice and righteousness, and to give us hope. Though he was killed by the powers of this earth, you raised him from the dead, and promise us that he will return to bring the fullness of your good Reign. We pray to live as the wise bridesmaids, looking for the day when at the trumpet's sound the dead will arise and all will be embraced in the marriage of earth and heaven in your peaceable kingdom.

Therefore, with hearts full of gratitude, we sing joyfully, giving thanks to you, our Father, at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We join our voices with Elizabeth of Hungary and with all your holy ones of all times and places. With earth and all its creatures, with sun, moon, and stars, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your Name, and join their unending hymn:



## Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal, p. 108



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;  
within each cell; with every breath.

### A We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water; by night and day;  
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

### A We bless you, O God.

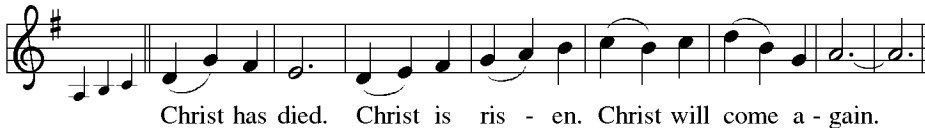
P We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

### A We thank you, O God.

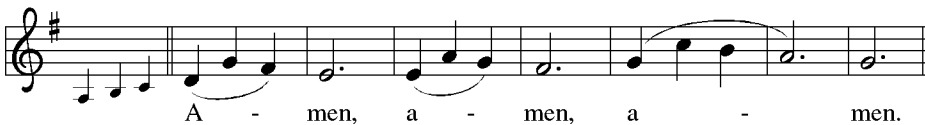
P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

- P Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:



- P We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering; within this meal;  
among your people; throughout the world.  
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.



### The Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:  
**A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

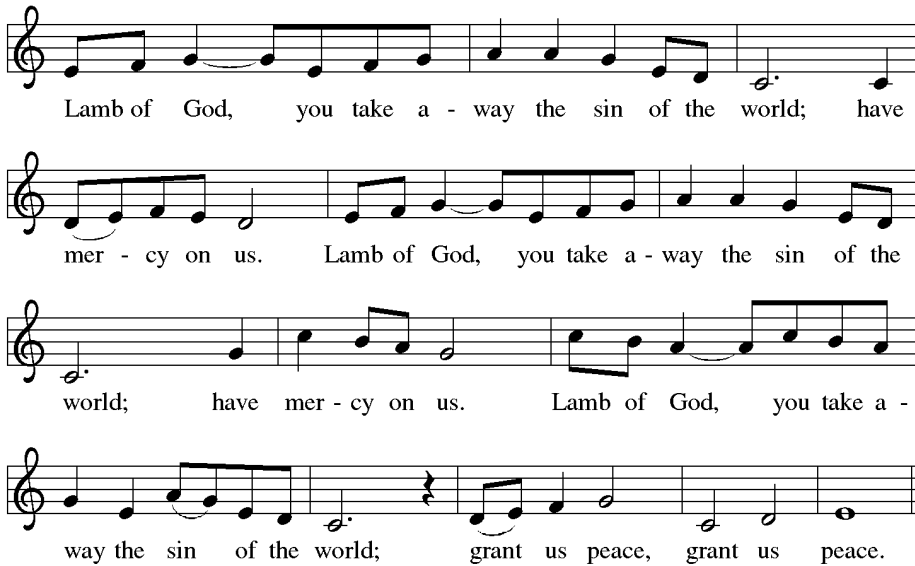
- L Speak to us, Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
and make us one with you.  
**A Thanks be to God!**

### Distribution of Holy Communion

*The Assembly is seated. Please come forward as the ushers direct, and as you are able.  
Please kneel around the altar rail, as you are able, beginning at the wall and coming toward the center.  
See the inside front cover for instructions concerning Holy Communion.*

## Communion Song

"O Lamb of God" Hymnal p. 112



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, grant us peace.

## This Week's Commemoration

**Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, d. 1231**

**Friday, November 17, 2017**

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was known for being generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age 24.

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Communion Hymn

“Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness”

Hymnal 488

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y haunts of sad - ness,  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.  
 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur - pass - ing won - der  
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and dear - est trea - sure,

come in - to the day - light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais - es ren - der.  
 There he stands al - read - y knock - ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing,  
 that the bread of life is bound - less though the souls it feeds are count - less;  
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing;

Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed;  
 o - pen wide the fast - closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal:  
 with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.  
 hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;

Christ, though heav' n - ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 “Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er.”  
 Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

*The Assembly stands when directed by the Presiding Minister.*

## Blessing after Communion

P The body and blood of our + Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

A Amen.

## Post-Communion Canticle

“Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace”



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

A Amen.

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

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**Sending of Communion**

P Let us pray. Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your Word and Sacrament with the sick and homebound of our congregation. May they be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A Amen.**

**Sending Song**

**“Let Justice Flow Like Streams” Hymnal 717**

*Please turn as the cross passes you to face the doors through which you will be sent out in mission.*

**Blessing**

P Go now, and follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before us in Christ. Live lives of justice, righteousness, mercy, and peace. Look expectantly for the signs of the in-breaking Reign of God, and stay ready.

And may God protect you along the way;  
May + Christ Jesus keep you alert and prepared;  
And may the Holy Spirit fuel the lamp that guides your path.

**A Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Share the Good News!

**A Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

*Please stay for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.*

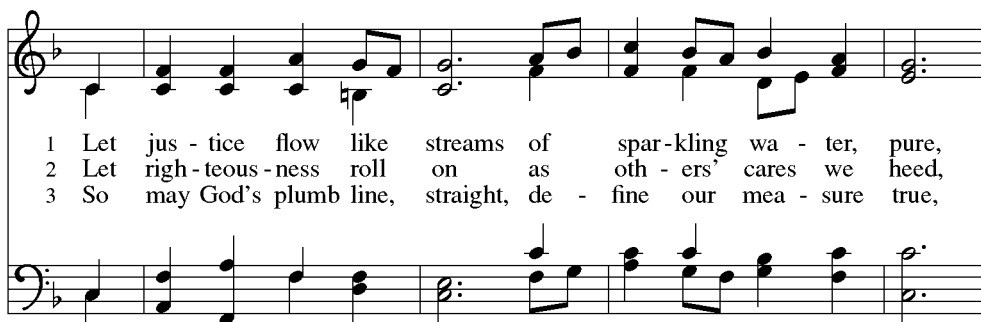
*Refreshments today are provided Kim Miller & Jean Kantner.*

*Come enjoy one another's company, and hear about all the opportunities for service and community!*

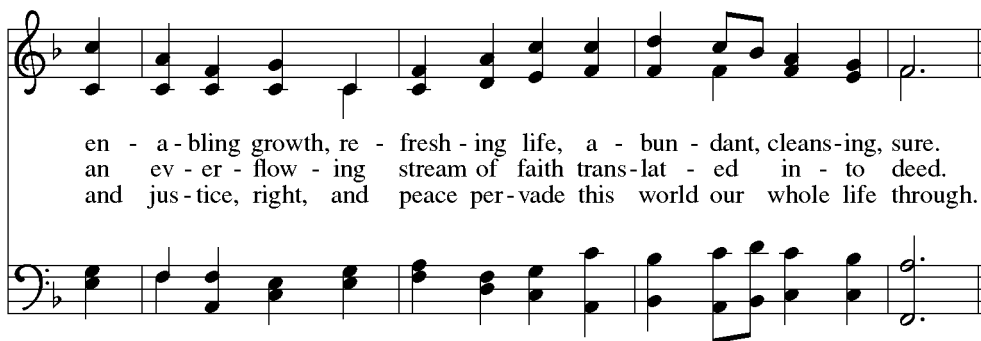
**Serving in worship today...**

Presiding Minister ..... Pr. Keith Fry  
Assisting Minister ..... Caroline Nakic  
Acolyte ..... Chris Djuric  
Lector ..... Scott Romans  
Communion Minister ..... Anne Heider  
Organist ..... Greg Hummel  
Table Preparation ..... Kit McCarthy  
Communion Bread ..... Anne Heider  
Ushers ..... Joe and Terri Simchak

# Let Justice Flow like Streams



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

## Beyond the Shut Door

Perhaps the most striking image in today's gospel is the one at the end of the parable: "And the door was shut." A shut door is often the imagery used to indicate the end of an opportunity. Worshiping communities may come up against various types of shut doors. Some may be found only occasionally, as when everyone seems happily connected and efforts to welcome newcomers are ignored. Other shut doors may be well known and a source of persistent frustration, as when positions of leadership are held by a select few, or when what happens inside the church rarely seems to connect with what is going on in the neighborhood or the world. A shut door is not the image one hopes for when considering congregational health or the mission of the church in the local community.

It is surprising to hear Jesus speaking about a shut door and the kingdom of heaven in the same parable, since he is the one who criticizes the scribes and Pharisees who "lock people out of the kingdom of heaven" (*Matt. 23:13*). It is also surprising because the shut door doesn't fit with Jesus' ministry of welcoming, healing, and eating with those whom society shunned. What does seem to fit is the invitation to meet the bridegroom and then go into the wedding banquet. Jesus is always encouraging his followers to join him, to come and see and share in the life he offers. But it is often our fear that shuts the door against Jesus.

Whether shut doors stand for opportunities gone or present obstacles, at the heart of discipleship is the willingness to be moved by instruction. As followers of Jesus we are given the challenge to remain with Jesus. Remaining with Jesus means hearing him tell us not to be afraid. Remaining with Jesus means that we can follow him into the banquet feast without delay.

## Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Keith Fry .....	Pastor
Kevin McDaniel.....	Congregation Council President
James Morehead .....	Music Director
Greg Hummel .....	Organist
Laurie Stivers .....	Associate Organist
Kristen Wood.....	Parish Administrator

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod.  
We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**