



**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 18, 2018  
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. The liturgy and hymns are printed in this bulletin for your convenience.

## 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 if you are able, and join the line. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. (Gluten-free wafers are available. Please indicate to the pastor if you need that.) You may eat it immediately, then take the silver chalice and drink from it or, if you prefer, take a small cup from the tray. The cups in the outer ring contain wine. The cups in the center contain grape juice for those who prefer that. When you have drunk, place your empty cup in the trays provided on the first row of chairs. 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 ...*

*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*

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

**Pre-Service Music** "Praeludium and Fugue II" *Well-Tempered Klavier, Columbe 1, BWV 847 J.S. Bach*

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

**A Amen.**

P Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours.  
Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness,  
and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A Amen.**

P With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*An extended silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Merciful God,

**A forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.**

**We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. [silence]**

**We were silent when we should have said something. [silence]**

**We acted when we knew better. [silence]**

**We were still when we know we should have moved. [silence]**

**For the wrong we have done,  
for the good we have failed to do,  
have mercy on us.**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P People of God, look to the + Son,  
given to heal you and set you free  
because God loved the cosmos so much.  
Take hold of life—eternal life!

**A Amen.**

# Gathering Song

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey" Hymnal 326

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day,  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## 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!**

# Great Litany

Leader:


O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

You are our eternal hope;

you are patient and full of mercy;

you are generous to all who call upon you.

Assembly



Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness,  
you have taken away our sins.

On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions  
and were bruised for our iniquities.

**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**


O Christ, obedient unto death,  
source of all comfort, our life and resurrection,  
our peace and reconciliation:

**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you,  
hope of all who die in you, and joy of all the saints:


**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

Leader Assembly Leader



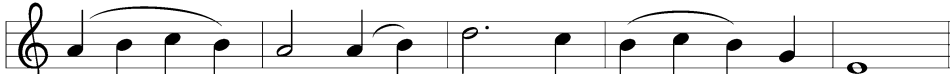
Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus,

Assembly




bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Leader



Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,

Assembly



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

*The Assembly is seated.*

## Welcome and Announcements

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

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## Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

**Genesis 9:8-17**

R A reading from Genesis.

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**



## Reading from the New Testament

1 Peter 3:18-22

R A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**

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

## Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -  
ful, slow to an-ger, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

## Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

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

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

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Reign of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*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.*



Hymn of the Day

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" Hymnal 319

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

## 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.**

## Prayers of the People

*After each petition, the Assembly responds with this refrain:*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
*OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

- L Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
- L We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Sara, for our council, and for all those you have called together in this place, that all might trust that the Reign of God has come near. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the world you love so much. For the well-being of both our own surroundings and of distant places. For favorable weather and sustaining rains. For creatures awakening from hibernation or beginning seasonal migrations. Provide safe habitats and abundant food for all. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for those in need. For those moving to new communities. For individuals who are incarcerated or recently released from prison. For those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, and for those who are ill, especially Serena Bernstein, Mid Carlson, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Barb Engelsen, Bob Fried, Jennifer Grethe, Dick Heisler, Judy Hokenson, Arda Hovnanian, Ron Laudert, Jim Rakowsky, George Shiff, Joe Skelton, John and Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts [...]. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for this assembly. For musicians, artists, and poets who help us envision your love through word, image, and song. For those who have faced exclusion or felt forgotten. For all who reach out in love and welcome. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- 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 O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially Martin Luther and Polycarp whom we commemorate this week. As they received the fulfillment of your promises made to them in baptism, sustain us in the hope of resurrection life with you. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- P Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior

**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**      "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"    *Jody W. Lindh*

**Presentation of the Gifts**      "The Eyes of All Look to You"

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It features a series of rests followed by a double bar line and the word "All" above the staff. The melody then begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The lyrics are: "1. The eyes of all look to you, O God, to" and "2. To all who hunger you provide the". The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes E5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, and E4. The lyrics are: "give them life and food. You open wide your gracious hand and" and "fruit of vine and field. From these, your gifts, we set aside a". The third staff continues with quarter notes D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, and E3. The lyrics are: "grant them ev-'ry good. With all creation we proclaim your" and "por-tion for this meal, where you draw near to those who cry, their". The fourth staff continues with quarter notes D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, and E3. The lyrics are: "stead-fast love and glorious reign. We bless your ho-ly" and "heart's de-sire to sat-is-fy. We bless your ho-ly". The fifth staff shows two first endings. The first ending is a quarter note G4 followed by a quarter rest. The second ending is a quarter note G4 followed by a quarter rest. Both endings lead to a double bar line.

1. The— eyes of all look to you, O God, to  
2. To— all who hun - ger you pro - vide the

give them life and food. You o - pen wide your gra - cious hand and  
fruit of vine and field. From these, your gifts, we set a - side a

grant them ev - 'ry good. With all cre - a - tion we pro - claim your  
por - tion for this meal, where you draw near to those who cry, their

stead - fast love and glo - rious reign. We— bless your ho - ly  
heart's de - sire to sat - is - fy. We— bless your ho - ly

1. name. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. name. \_\_\_\_\_

### Offering Prayer

**L** Let us pray.

**A** **Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. 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

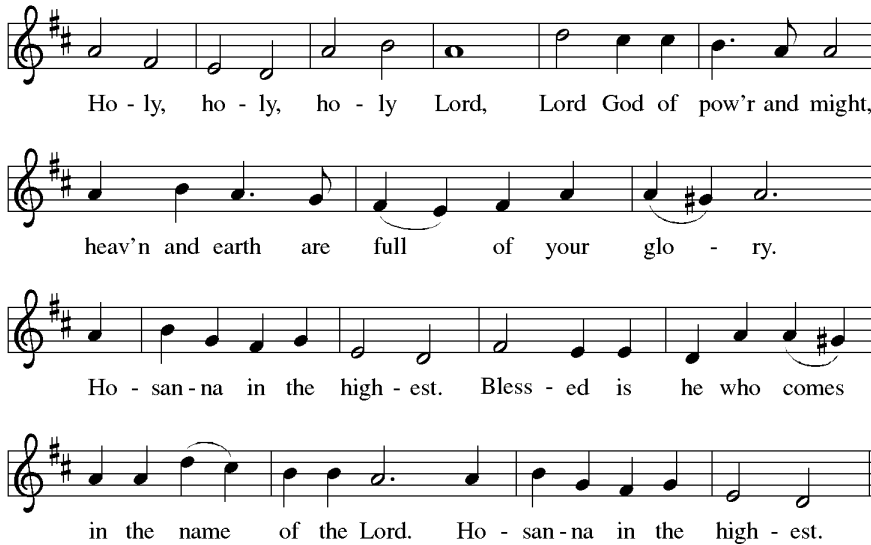
P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for in tenderness and faithful love you forgive our sins and guide us when we stray. When the ancient Flood destroyed the world you had created, you saved Noah and his family from the waters, and established a covenant with them and with every living creature for all time.

In later times your Son, Jesus, came forth from the waters of baptism, and after proving himself in the wilderness where waves of temptation threatened to engulf him, he began proclaiming the good news of your promised Reign now drawing near to us, calling people to repent and believe in this good news. He was cast down to the land of the dead where he preached even to those lost in the Flood, but you raised him to new life and seated him at your side to reign over every authority and power forever.

Therefore, with hearts full of gratitude, we sing joyfully, giving thanks to you who are both Father and Mother to us at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We join our voices with Martin Luther and Polycarp, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.  
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.  
In every age you sent prophets  
to make known your loving will for all humanity.  
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen Servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.  
  
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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**A Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

P Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen!

**A Amen!**

P Send your Holy Spirit, our Advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen!

**A Amen!**

P Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God of Israel, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

### **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 Return to God with all your heart.  
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

**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.  
See the inside front cover for instructions concerning Holy Communion.*

**Communion Song**"Lamb of God" **Hymnal p. 154**

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.

**Communion Hymn**"In the Singing" **Hymnal 466**

- 1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
- 2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,

in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

*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 Song

“Seed That in Earth is Dying” Hymnal 330



Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of grain.  
Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much fruit.



Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel turn in - to gold - en wine.  
Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble, give us the bread of life.



God, through this mys - ter - y grant us faith in our deep - est  
Lord, we do thank and a - dore you! Un - ceas - ing praise of the



dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
a - ges ris - es from night and death.

## Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

## This Week's Commemorations

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, d. 1546**

**Sunday, February 18, 2018**

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, d. 156**

**Friday, February 23, 2018**

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

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

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**Sending of Communion**

P 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 or homebound. 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.

**A Amen.**

**Sending Song** "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" *(printed on following page)* **Hymnal 618**

*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 live in the spirit of your baptism, even when you are led into wild and hard places. With repentance and trust, give yourselves to God, and with fasting and prayer, strengthen yourselves against the ways of the tempter.

And may God enfold you in tender and lasting love.

May + Christ Jesus be beside you in times of struggle.

And may the Spirit guide you back to the path

whenever you stray, that you may keep the covenant.

**A Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**A Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

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

*Refreshments today are provided by Jim and Kathryn Skelton.*

*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 .....	Carolyn Nakic
Acolyte .....	Tyler Knoch
Lector .....	Judy Kratochvil
Communion Minister .....	Susan Ross
Pianist .....	James Morehead
Table Preparation .....	Kathryn Skelton
Communion Bread .....	Anne Heider
Ushers .....	TBA

## Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

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## Sharing the Wilderness

Have you ever experienced the disappointment of coming down from a “mountaintop” experience? Away at a camp or retreat you experience something profound, something that feels like it will transform your life forever. But when you return to everyday life you feel surrounded by obstacles to lasting change. Sometimes our baptismal life as Christians can feel like this. In worship, gathered with sisters and brothers in faith, we can experience God’s presence, but then we go back out into our everyday lives and everything becomes more challenging.

Mark’s gospel shows us that even Jesus experienced mountaintops and valleys in his spiritual life. Jesus moves very quickly from splashing in the baptismal waters of the Jordan River and receiving signs and words of divine encouragement into a lonely wilderness where for the next forty days he is tempted and tested. It is with both experiences behind him, the highs and the lows, that Jesus begins his ministry and his bold proclamation that God’s kingdom has come near.

As we gather for the season of Lent, we are reminded that in our own baptisms God’s kingdom has come near. We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Those who gather for worship each week will be a mixed group—some experiencing that strong affirmation, some feeling lost in the wilderness, and others somewhere between. Yet Christ’s proclamation is for all. God’s kingdom has come near. God’s promises hold true for us all no matter what we are feeling any particular week. In worship, we both affirm those around us and receive the gift of their affirmation. We gather both to give and to receive Jesus’ proclamation.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 18	Congregation Council 12:30 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 21	Three Crowns Service 11:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Friday, Feb. 23	Evening Quilting 7:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 24	Farmer’s Market 8:30 AM–1:00 PM

## Immanuel’s Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Keith Fry .....	Pastor
Sara Krentz.....	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 worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**