



Second Sunday in Lent

**February 25, 2018
10:30 A.M.**

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• Parish Administrator: parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org

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 so you can follow along more easily. We will be worshipping in Fellowship Hall while our Sanctuary is being renovated.

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 tray provided at the end of the front 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 ...*

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

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

Pre-Service Music

"Adagio Cantabile, Op. 13 II" L. von Beethoven

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

"All My Hope on God is Founded" Hymnal 757

1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of

trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing

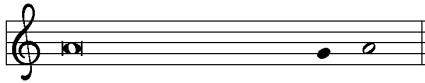
on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and

lone, call my heart to be thine own.
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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 a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



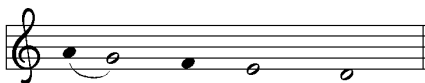
Lord, have mer - cy.



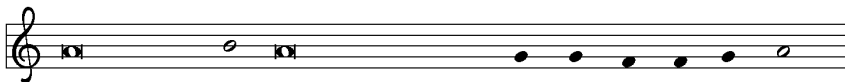
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 ...*

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 17:1–17, 15–16

R A reading from Genesis.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 22:23-31

ELW Psalm Tone 9

The piano 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:



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is
the LORD's face hid- | den from them;
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever! R**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" R

R A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8:31-38

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

A Glory to you, O Lord!

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" Hymnal 667

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

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. Make us bold to proclaim your love. Give us courage to carry the cross that confronts us each day and follow Christ. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Sara, and for our council. Strengthen pastors, bishops, deacons, and all who minister in your name. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the world. For flowing streams and still waters. For urban parks and wilderness reserves. For pastures and forests. Instill within us a reverence for the earth as your creation and our fragile home. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor our common humanity within diversity. Turn enemies into friends. Lead us away from hatred, fear, and misunderstanding. Show our hearts the way to peace and fill us with compassion. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for those in need. For people whose struggles we fail to acknowledge. For those who leave their homes and families in search of safety or employment. For those who grieve, and for all 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 those who prepare this space for worship. For ministries of fellowship and hospitality. For all who provide care and support to those who are homebound. 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 We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us in the faith, remembering especially Deaconess Elizabeth Fedde, George Herbert, and John and Charles Wesley, whom we commemorate this week. Bring us with them to the fullness of our inheritance in Christ and into the joy of eternal 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 and 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 "Wondrous Love" arr. Parker/Shaw

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

All

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-ify. 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

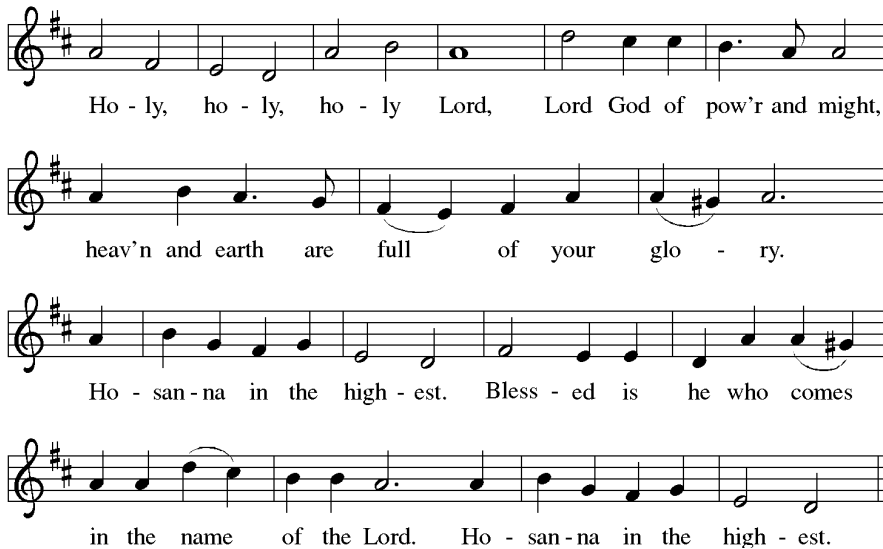
P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for, in an everlasting covenant, you have promised to be our God through all generations. You called into existence things that did not exist: the universe and all that inhabits it. From Abraham and Sarah you brought forth nations, calling them to walk before you in the righteousness that comes from faith.

In your Son, Jesus, you showed your compassion for the afflicted and taught us that real life is found by those who lose their life for your sake and for your gospel. He was rejected by the those in power and killed, but three days later, you raised him from the dead as Lord. Now you justify all who put their faith in you, through him, counting it to us as righteousness, and promising us the full riches of your grace when Christ comes in glory.

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 Elizabeth Fedde, George Herbert, John and Charles Wesley, 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. 153



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

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LBW 482

1 When I sur - ve y the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

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.

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

Sending of Communion

P Let us pray. 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 "The God of Abraham Praise" *(printed on following page)* **Hymnal 831**

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 before God in openness and integrity. Set your minds on the ways of God, not clinging to your own life, but taking up your cross and following Jesus.

And may God give you a share in the eternal covenant;
May + Christ Jesus be proud of you when he comes in glory;
And may the Holy Spirit make you grow strong in faith
and lead you in the ways of righteousness.

A Amen.

Dismissal

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

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude "Grave, Allegro molto con brio, Op. 13, I" *(Symphonie Pathétique)* L. von Beethoven

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

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	Kim Miller
Acolyte	Chris Djuric
Lector	Christine Imhoff
Communion Minister	Caroline Nakic
Pianist	James Morehead
Table Preparation	Kathryn Skelton
Communion Bread	Scott Romans
Ushers	TBA

The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com - mand
 3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.

“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

[cont.]

- 5 Though nature's strength decay,
and earth and hell withstand,
to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
at your command.
The wat'ry deep I pass,
with Jesus in my view,
and through the howling wilderness
my way pursue.
- 6 The goodly land I see,
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty,
and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.
- 7 Before the great Three-One
the saints exulting stand
and tell the wonders God has done
through all their land.
The list'ning spheres attend
and swell the growing fame
and sing the songs which never end,
the wondrous name.
- 8 The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays:
to you be glory, might divine,
and endless praise!

This Week's Commemorations

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, d. 1921

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

George Herbert, hymnwriter, d. 1633

Thursday, March 1, 2018

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, d. 1791; Charles Wesley, d. 1788; renewers of the church

Friday, March 2, 2018

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

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Sharing the Wilderness

At the climax of the movie *A Few Good Men*, Jack Nicholson's character utters the now famous line: "You want the truth? You can't handle the truth." Perhaps the line has become so popular because we all recognize that hiding unpleasant truths is something we all do. Sometimes that takes the form of so-called white lies we tell to protect those we love. But sometimes we avoid the hardest truths in our lives, our families, our businesses, and our congregations because we fear what will happen when everyone stares in the face something we have been avoiding.

In today's gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples by naming his fate out loud: suffering, rejection, and death. These are truths his disciples may have wondered about as opposition to Jesus' ministry mounted, but Peter's reaction shows us that they were not ready to face them head on. In the season of Lent, Jesus' death in Jerusalem always looms on the horizon. For us now, facing Jesus' death is no longer a question for the future. We all know how the story ends. But we still struggle with the truth of a God who chose to reveal God's own nature through servanthood, humiliation, and weakness. We still struggle with the call to pick up our own crosses and name the hard truths about our own lives and failings.

We enter Christian community by first having the truth of a promise made over us. In baptism, God declares faithfulness, grace, and mercy over our lives and deaths. It is with confidence in this truth that we gather together to name hard truths in our lives and our world, knowing that in love God can receive and heal it all. Led by faith in Christ and following in his footsteps, we can handle the truth.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb. 28	Dinner Church 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thursday, March 1	Daytime Quilting 10:00 AM
Sunday, March 4	Café Immanuel 9:00 AM

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!**