



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

Fourth Sunday in Lent—“*Laetare*”

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
March 11, 2018**

616 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201 • 847-864-4464 • www.immanuelevanston.org
E-mail: Church: immanuel@immanuelevanston.org • Pastor: pastor@immanuelevanston.org
• 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 are worshipping in Fellowship Hall while our Sanctuary is being repainted.

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 fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying. Today is "Laetare" Sunday—"Rejoice!" It's the Sunday for rejoicing in the midst of our Lenten austerity as we come nearer and nearer to the full joy of Easter.

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

Pre-Service Music *Var. on "What Wondrous Love is This" Don Wyrzten, John Carter, and James Morehead*

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.



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and fa - vor;
 2 What God did in the law de - mand no one could keep un - fail - ing;
 3 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made and brought to us sal - va - tion,
 4 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un - ceas - ing;



good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and save us
 great woe a - rose on ev - 'ry hand, and sin grew all - pre -
 we will re - joice, we will be glad and build on this foun -
 and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope in -



nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who did for
 vail - ing. Be - cause the law must be ful - filled, Christ came as
 da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead; bap - tized in -
 creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works serve our



all the world a - tone, our on - ly me - di - a - tor.
 God in mer - cy willed, for us the law o - bey - ing.
 to your death, I'm freed; your life is mine for - ev - er.
 neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.

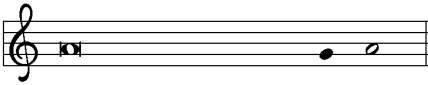
5 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise to Father, Son, and Spirit!
 Lord, you have saved us by your grace;
 all glory to your merit!
 O triune God in heav'n above,
 you have revealed your saving love;
 your blessed name we hallow.

6 Your kingdom come, your will be done
 in this world as in heaven;
 give bread for each new day begun;
 our sins be all forgiven,
 as we forgive what others do;
 in ev'ry trial see us through;
 from evil save us. Amen.

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.



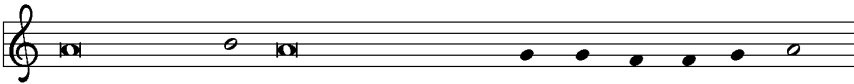
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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 ...*

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Numbers 21:4–9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the Exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

R A reading from Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

R Word of God, word of life.

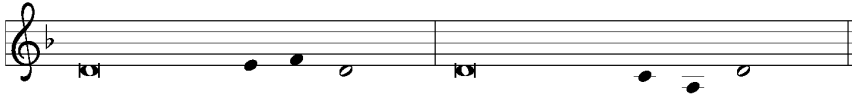
A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

ELW Psalm Tone 8

*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:



- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
- ²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**
- ¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.
- ¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress. R**
- ²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.
- ²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. R

Reading from the New Testament

Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

R A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

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

A Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

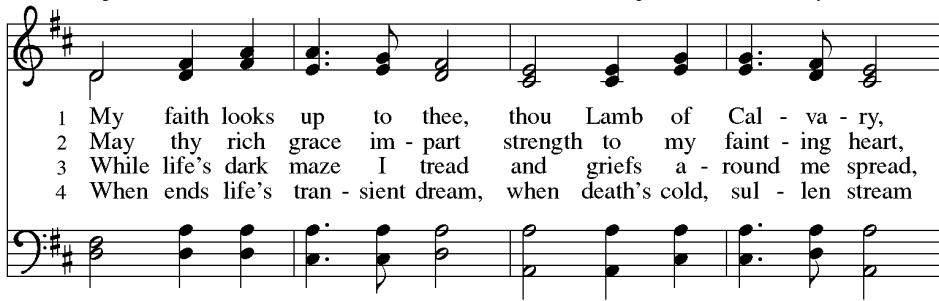
The Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then seated.

Sermon

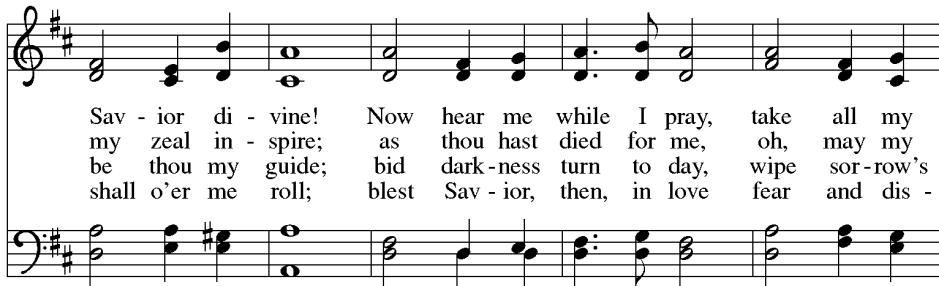
A bell will chime to begin a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word or phrase from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word.



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

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. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Sara, our council, and for all those you have gathered in your name. Empower us with courage to speak out against injustice and greed, demonstrating with our words and bodies the love of Jesus. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured, especially Serena Bernstein, Mid Carlson, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Barb Engelsen, Bob Fried, Jennifer Grethe, Dick Heisler, Judy Hokenson, Ron Laudert, 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 nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. *[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 in faith, especially remembering Gregory the Great and Patrick of Ireland, as well as those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal 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 "God So Loved the World" *John Stainer*

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 - 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

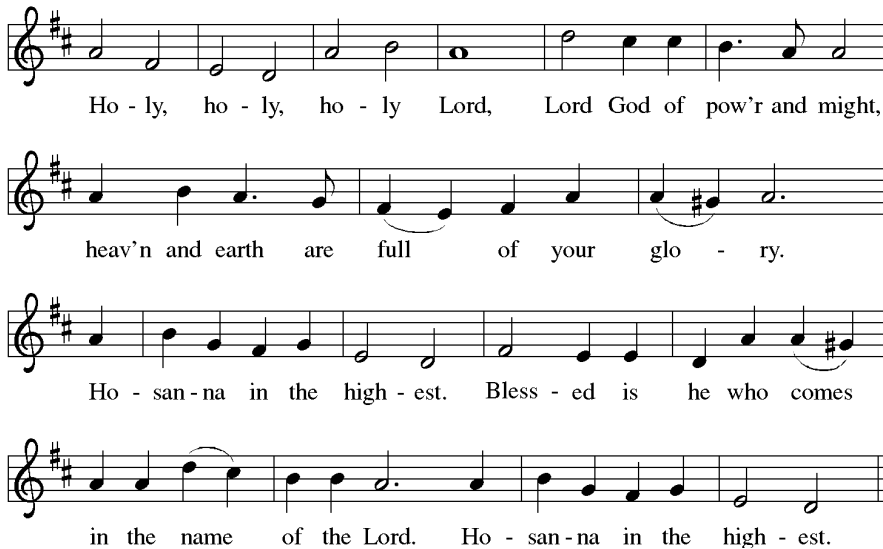
P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for in lasting love you gave your only Son, so that all who trust in him may have eternal life. In the beginning you spoke the word of life and brought the world into being. You rescued a people from oppression, and even when they rebelled against you, you heard their cries and snatched them from danger.

In great love and mercy, you sent your Son, Jesus, into the world, and though he was lifted up on the cross to die, you gave the gift of life to all who turned to him in faith. Raising him from the dead, you have given us life in him, not because of any works of our own, but as a gift from the immeasurable riches of your grace given us in Christ, now and for the ages to come.

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 Gregory and Patrick, 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 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.*

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

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 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" *(printed on following page)* **Hymnal 779**

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 as people made by God for good works. Live your life in God openly in the light so all may see. Celebrate God's love with a sacrifice of praise

, and tell your story of salvation with joy.

And may God show you the immeasurable riches of his grace.

May + Christ Jesus heal you and rescue you as you look to him for life.

And may the Spirit lead you with shouts of rejoicing into the fullness of life prepared for you.

A Amen.

Dismissal

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

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"The Cat's Fugue" Domenico Scarlatti

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

Refreshments today are provided by the Shearer and Larson families.

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..... Linda Edlund
Acolyte..... Caroline Nakic
Lector..... Caroline Nakic
Communion Minister..... Terri Hummel
Pianist..... James Morehead
Table Preparation..... Joanne Shearer
Communion Bread..... TBA
Ushers..... Joe and Terri Simchak

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

This Week's Commemorations

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, d. 604

Monday, March 12, 2018

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, d. 461

Saturday, March 17, 2018

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

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Sharing the Light

Since earliest times, human beings have gathered around fires for warmth, food, storytelling, and community. It is a special feeling to find yourself gathered with a group of people around a campfire or even a heater on a subway platform. Such gatherings prompt us to see those around us in new ways. We notice the faces of people we otherwise would have overlooked. We experience something common in our need for light and warmth.

Each week the Holy Spirit gathers the church together in many spaces around the world. We gather in a different kind of light, a spiritual light that shines from God's only Son who has come into the world. He came into this world "in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17). In the remembrance of our baptisms, in song, in scripture readings, in prayer, in the meal around the table, the one who is the light of the world is present among us. Jesus calls us to step out of the darkness in our lives and into his life-giving, healing, and sustaining light.

Gathered around Jesus Christ, we are called to invite others in. The light of Christ is there for all who experience darkness in their lives, who feel out in the cold, hungry, without a story or purpose, cut off from others in any way. Jesus' light crowds us in together. Then, sent out by Jesus Christ into our lives, we are called to bring that light with us. Wherever we go, we can show interest in others, listen to them, and seek ways to care for them. We lift up the light we experience each week in community with one another for someone else to see.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 14	Dinner Church 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thursday, March 15	Daytime Quilting 10:00 AM
Sunday, March 18	Adult Spiritual Growth Class 9:00 AM
Saturday, March 24	Farmers' 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!**