



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

Fifth Sunday in Lent

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
March 18, 2018**

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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 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 ...*

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

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

Pre-Service Music

“XIII^{ème} Improvisation en La Mineur” Francis Poulenc

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

"As the Sun with Longer Journey" Hymnal 329



1 As the sun with long-er jour-ney melts the win-ter's snow and ice,
2 Through the days of wait-ing, watch-ing, in the des-ert of our sin,
3 Praise be giv-en to the mak-er of the sea-sons' year-ly round:



with its slow-ly grow-ing ra-diance warms the seed be-neath the earth,
search-ing on the far ho-ri-zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it—Source, Sus-tain-er, Lord of life,

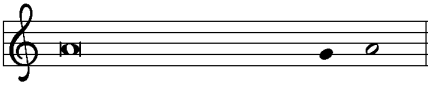


may the sun of Christ's up-ris-ing gent-ly bring our hearts to life.
we a-wait the heal-ing wa-ters of our Sav-ior's vic-to-ry.
as the ev-er turn-ing a-ges roll to their e-ter-nal rest.

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.



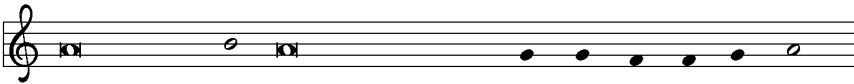
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

Jeremiah 31:31–34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

R A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R Word of God, word of life.

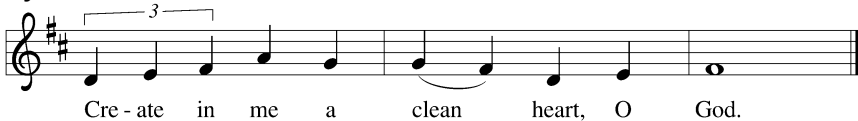
A **Thanks be to God!**

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:



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
 in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
 and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³For I know | my offenses,
 and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
 so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
 a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
 and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
 wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
 that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R**
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
 and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
 and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
 and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
 and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. R**

Reading from the New Testament

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

R A reading from Hebrews.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

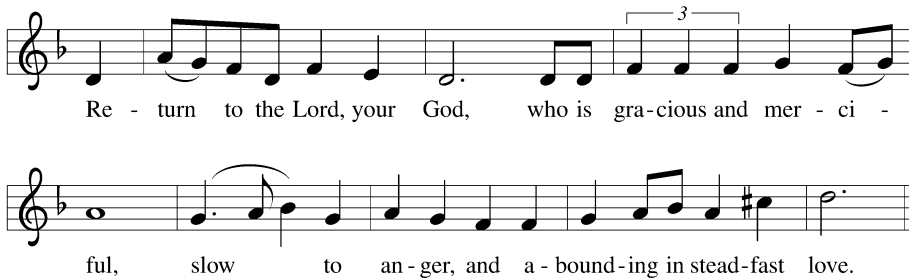
⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

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

A Glory to you, O Lord!

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

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. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. 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. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the world. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world's decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill, 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 those preparing for baptism. For visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after an extended absence. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. *[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 those who have been witnesses and examples to us, remembering this week Joseph, guardian of our Lord, Thomas Cranmer, Jonathan Edwards, and Oscar Arnulfo Romero. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and life eternal with you. *[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

"The Frozen Earth" Marilen and James Biery

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

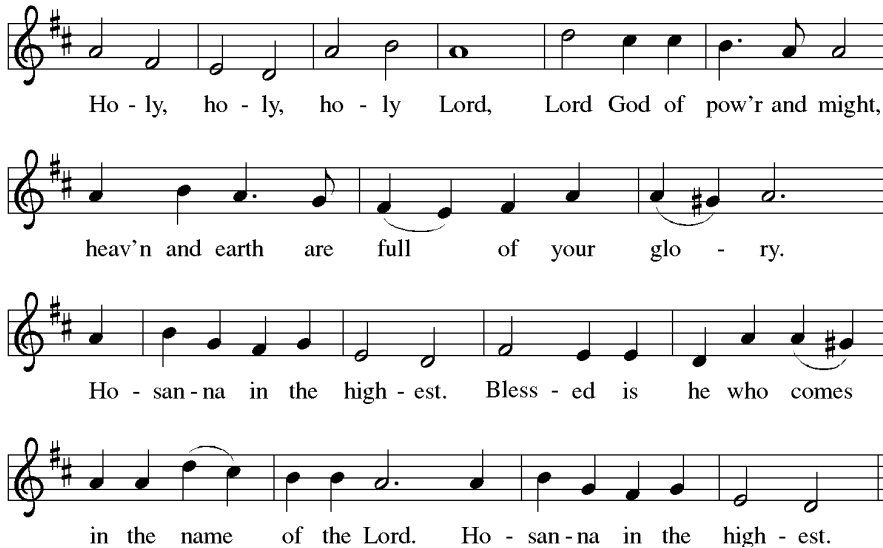
P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you have taken us by the hand, and offered yourself to us in a sacred covenant. You are the creator of all things; you knew the earth and its inhabitants before their birth. You led a suffering people from slavery to freedom, and offered to be their God if they would be your people.

Though we broke our vows to you and pursued evil, in gracious love you offered us a new covenant embodied in your Son, Jesus, who was made perfect on the path of obedience, even in the face of suffering. Lifted up on a cross to die, he has drawn all people to himself; and raised from the dead, he has become the source of eternal salvation for all who live in obedience to the new law you have written on our hearts.

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 Joseph, guardian of our Lord, with Thomas Cranmer, Jonathan Edwards, and Oscar Romero, 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.*

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

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Hymnal 595

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

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 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" *(printed on following page)* **Hymnal 324**

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

Blessing

P Go now, to serve Christ and follow him. Let your old life fall like a grain of wheat into the earth so that you may bear much fruit as you allow God to reshape your heart, and live in obedience to the law written within you.

And may God center you in truth and steady your spirit.

May + Christ Jesus renew your joy and strengthen your will.

And may the Spirit teach you God's hidden wisdom

and fill you with songs of rejoicing.

A Amen.

Dismissal

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

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"VII^{ème} Improvisation en Ut majeur" *Francis Poulenc*

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

Refreshments today are provided by the Couch/Anderson Family.

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 Kit McCarthy
Acolyte Tyler Knohl
Lector Mary Ann Kearns
Communion Minister Susan Ross
Pianist James Morehead
Table Preparation Kit McCarthy
Communion Bread Audrey Moy
Ushers TBA

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diancance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

This Week's Commemorations

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Monday, March 19, 2018

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, d. 1556

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, d. 1758

Thursday, March 22, 2018

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, d. 1980

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the Eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

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Falling for Jesus

In this final week of Lent we prepare to enter the story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection and to be transformed and renewed in our baptismal identity through this story's movements. In our wider culture, however, the depth of meaning and experiences that the church walks through during Holy Week, which begins next Sunday, can be hidden behind secular celebrations of Easter.

The Greek inquirers in today's gospel remind us that people around us who are not Christian or do not celebrate Holy Week may still be curious about the origins and significance of Easter. Amidst chocolate bunnies and eggs, we may find ourselves, like Philip and Andrew, with opportunities to direct people's curiosity toward the Lord we come to meet each week.

Jesus' words to his disciples help us in our witness. He is the one who laid down his life for others out of love. In his life we find a willingness to give everything he has for his neighbors and loved ones, even for those who don't yet have a relationship with him. It is from just such a sacrifice that so much fruit has sprung forth. The church is part of that fruit, people across the centuries who have sought to live their own lives in the same way, offering love to the stranger and the outsider.

Each week we come together and reap the fruit of Christ's self-giving love. We hear it in his words. We taste it in the bread and wine of the table. We receive it in the care and consolation of other Christians around us. And as we receive so much from Christ and his church, we are empowered to let ourselves "fall" in service to others so that they too might see through us to Jesus Christ (*John 12:24*).

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 21	Dinner Church 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Friday, March 23	Evening Quilting 7:00 PM
Saturday, March 24	Farmers' Market 8:30 AM–1:00 PM
Sunday, March 25	Adult Spiritual Growth Class 9:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 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
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We've been worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**