



**Sunday of the Passion
with Liturgy of the Palms**

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
March 25, 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 first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering, and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.

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

*The Assembly gathers in the courtyard for the Blessing of the Palms and Procession with Palms.
If you do not wish to process, you may wait in the Fellowship Hall and meditate upon the scriptures.*

Acclamation *The Acclamation is repeated three times.*

P Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

A **Hosanna in the highest!**

Processional Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

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

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

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Blessing of the Palms

P The Lord be with you.

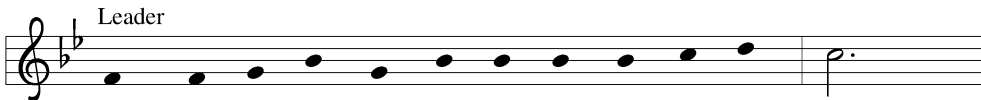
A And also with you.

P Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the Holy City in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the Cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

Processional Chant

Following the Cross of Christ, the Assembly processes into the Fellowship Hall, singing and waving your palms. When we reach the worship space, we will lay our palms on the floor in front of the cross, then each will find a seat and remain standing for the singing of the Gathering Song.



Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est heav'n!



Be-hold the Son of Da-vid! Be - hold the Lamb of our sal - va - tion!
or Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est heav'n!

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Prayer of the Day

P As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

[A brief silence.]

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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

Isaiah 50:5–9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

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 14:1-15:47

P This is the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

The Assembly is seated.

The Gospel today will be read from the booklet provided. The Assembly reads the parts in boldface type.

Remain seated until the pronouncement, "... he handed him over to be crucified."

At that point the Assembly stands and remains standing through the end of the reading.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Assembly is 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 song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love-less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to



be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my
 know. But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who
 king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes that



Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
 no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

The Nicene Creed

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

**A We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the + resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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. Bless all who call upon your name. Unite your church in bearing witness to 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. Pour your love into our hearts, and inspire us to pour out our lives in service to your world. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the world. For palm trees and figs. For trees with leafy branches. For olive groves and gardens. For mountains and hillsides, valleys and canyons. For places affected by rising sea levels or depleted water sources. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for the nations. For peace among all, especially those who honor Jerusalem as holy ground. For all who hold positions of authority and power. For all who suffer oppression, and for those who serve in the armed forces. O Lord, hear our prayer. *[Refrain]*
- L We pray for those in need. For those who have suffered betrayal. For those who live in poverty. For those who have no voice or power. For the forsaken and forgotten. For those who are in crisis, and for those who are ill, especially Serena Bernstein, Mid Carlson, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Barb Engelsen, Bob Fried, Jennifer Grethe, Dick Heisler, Judy Hokenson, 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 musicians, table preparers, ushers, and all who lead us in worship. For those who serve our community through food pantries, homeless shelters, and clothing banks. *[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 all who like Mary, the mother of Jesus, have been obedient to your will, and all who have died in faith, remembering especially Hans Nielsen Hauge and John Donne, whom we commemorate this week. Bring us with them into your glory, to dwell with you in life eternal. *[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 "Ride On, King Jesus" *Jean Anne Shafferman, arr. Patti Drennan*

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

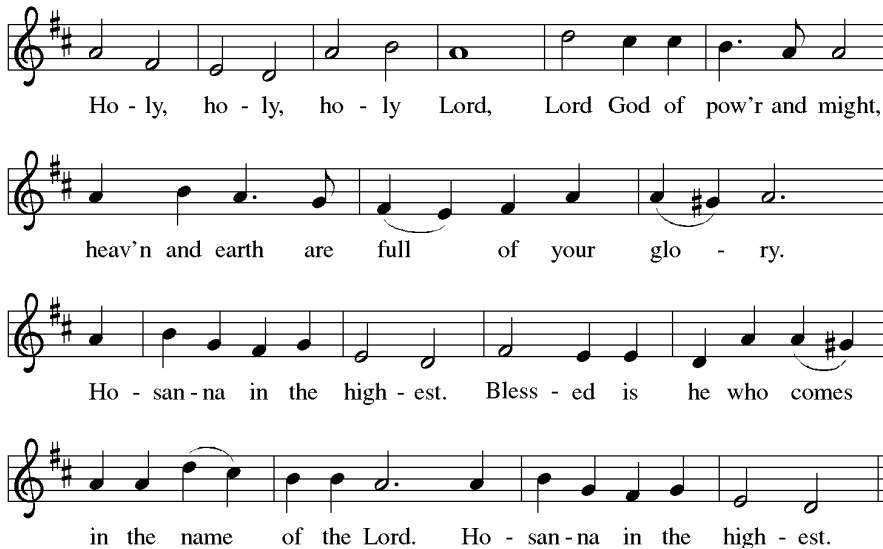
P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you alone are good and your steadfast love is forever. The creation of the world was your doing and is a marvel to our eyes. Your prophets told of the coming one who would teach your ways and sustain us with your word.

Your son, Jesus, though one with you gave up all he had, taking on human flesh, and walking the path of obedience all the way to insult, betrayal and death, trusting only in your vindication. Though he was rejected by those who had cheered him, you made him the cornerstone of new life and raised him to the highest place of honor. He has opened the gates of justice and become our salvation, so with shouts of joy we greet his appearing, and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord to your glory forever.

Therefore, with hearts full of gratitude, we sing joyfully, giving thanks to you, who are both Father and Mother to us, at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We join our voices with Mary, the God-bearer, with Hans Nielsen Hauge, John Donne, 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, Remember Me" Hymnal 616

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.
Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.

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

"There in God's Garden" (printed on following page) Hymnal 342

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

Blessing

P Go now and follow Christ in obedience. Have the same mind as was in Christ Jesus. Keep your ears open to God's teaching. Be humble, even in the face of hostility, and do not turn back, no matter what lies ahead of you on your road.

And may God help you and keep you from disgrace;
May + Christ Jesus lead you through the gates of justice;
And may the Holy Spirit keep you in God's steadfast love
and fill your mouths with praise to the glory of God.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Remember the poor.

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Praeludium und Fuge XII, Das Wohlterperierte Klavier, Teil II, BWV 881" J. S. Bach

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

Refreshments today are provided by the Ross 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 Anne Heider
Acolytes Chris Djuric, Olivia Knohl
Lector Tyler Knohl
Communion Minister Kit McCarthy
Pianist James Morehead
Table Preparation Joanne Shearer
Communion Bread TBA
Ushers Nicolai Schousboe

There in God's Garden

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

This Week's Commemorations

Annunciation of Our Lord Sunday, March 25, 2018

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, d. 1824 Thursday, March 29, 2018

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, d. 1631 Saturday, March 31, 2018

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

CREDITS: Liturgy texts and music from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #32867. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Preface and Benediction adapted from laughingbird.net.

Total Commitment

This week we will watch Jesus' triumphal procession into Jerusalem give way to his march of suffering out of Jerusalem to Golgotha. We will listen as the voices that once shout "hosanna" later cry "crucify." In some places worshipers will give voice to both cries through their participation in scripture readings or song.

Such scripting suggests a central truth about the message of Holy Week—that despite all our posturing as Christians and disciples of Christ, we remain deeply ambivalent about this Jesus of Nazareth. In our lives, there are times when we participate in both the crowds that praise Jesus and the crowds that look on him with suspicion and contempt.

Yet, more important than our own fickleness in the story of Jesus' procession, arrest, and death is Christ's unwavering faithfulness toward us. While our conviction changes, Jesus' does not. While our interest fades, Christ's investment in us remains total. His resolved march into Jerusalem continues toward Golgotha even as the crowds disperse and disciples run away. When the cheers of the crowd go silent and then turn sour, Jesus' words of blessing and forgiveness carry on.

The good news today and every day is that God's gracious love is poured out through Christ apart from any accounting of which crowd we stand in or which word is coming from our lips. When we think about it, we really are gathered together not through our commitment to Christ but through Christ's commitment to us. That promise is made to us in baptism, where God marks us forever as God's own. And it is with this promise that we walk through the moments of this week, knowing that in all things Christ has chosen to stand by us.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 28	Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service 6:30 PM
Friday, March 30	Good Friday Noon Service (<i>spoken</i>) 12:00 noon Good Friday Evening Service (<i>sung</i>) 8:00 PM
Saturday, March 31	Great Vigil of Easter and Breaking the Fast 8:00 PM
Sunday, April 1	Café Immanuel 9:00 AM Easter Festival 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
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod.
We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**