



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist  
September 2, 2018**

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# Welcome!

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.**

**We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.**

**We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.**

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card, 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. Our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is organized so that page numbers for the liturgy are in the front part of the book, while hymn numbers are in the second part. The liturgy and hymns are printed in this bulletin, but page numbers are provided for those who wish to follow along in the hymnal.

## 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 kneel at the altar rail, starting at the walls. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. (Gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) 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. As you return to your seat, place your empty cup in the trays provided at the ends of the front pews. 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 ...*

*Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

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

### Pre-Service Music

"Trios"   *Bach and Albrechtsberger*

### Confession and Forgiveness

P   Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
full of compassion and mercy,  
abounding in steadfast love.

**A   Amen.**

P   Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P   Eternal God our creator,

**A   in you we live and move and have our being.**

**Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.**

**Forgive us all our offenses,**

**and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.**

**By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P   Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit given to us.  
In the mercy of almighty God,  
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;  
and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

**A   Amen.**

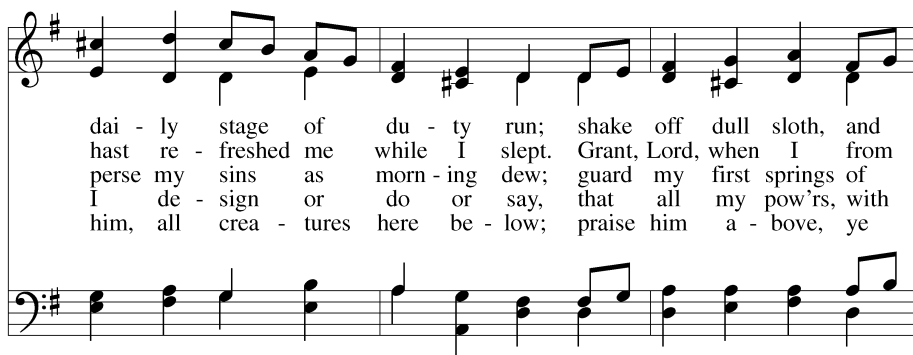
## Gathering Song

“Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”

LBW 269



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy  
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and  
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -  
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all  
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and  
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from  
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of  
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.  
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.  
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## 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!**

Kyrie

[Sing through twice, the second time a capella.]

Hymnal p. 154

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The melody is written in the upper staff, and the bass line is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature and clefs as the first system. The melody continues in the upper staff, and the bass line continues in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on  
earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and  
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your  
glo-ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have  
mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the  
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the  
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the  
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the  
glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A Amen.**

*The Assembly is seated.*

## Welcome and Announcements

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

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## Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

R A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 15

1. Lord, who may dwell with - in your house Or on your ho - ly hill? Those  
2. Who have no guile u - pon their tongues Nor harm their neigh - bor's life, But  
3. Who do no wrong, but keep their word And seek no bribe or gain; All

8  
who do good and speak the truth, Whose lives are blame - less still.  
ho - nor those who do such things shall live And turn a - way from strife.  
those who do such things shall live And safe from harm re - main.

## Reading from the New Testament

James 1:17-27

R A reading from James.

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**



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

## Gospel Acclamation

Hymnal 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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**

### **Time of Silence**

*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 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,  
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—  
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

## 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

L Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

L Gracious God, we pray for all those who labor to bear your word into the world by welcoming the stranger, healing the sick, and caring for the orphan. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Sara, our Council, and for all whom you have called here in your name. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L Creative God, we pray for the earth. Keep watch over those who rescue endangered species and repair scorched landscapes. Make us good stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L Sovereign God, we pray for the nations of the world, for governments, leaders, and citizens. Watch over refugees and immigrants. Inspire us to welcome them with glad hearts when they arrive on our shores and in our neighborhoods. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L Loving God, you call us to serve our neighbors. Bless our vocations as we fill the cups of the thirsty, the plates of the hungry, and the hearts of the lonely. Make our presence your presence for all who sorrow or who suffer, especially Serena Bernstein, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Bob Fried, Kimberly Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Judy Hokenson, Ron Laudert, Richard Lewis, Joe Skelton, John and Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts [...]. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L Welcoming God, at tables around the world, through story and meal, strangers become guests and guests become friends. Embolden this congregation to always extend the wide-armed welcome you extend to us. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

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 Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

L With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses whose lives inspire us to loving service, especially Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, renewer of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

**A hear our prayer.**

P Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

**A Amen.**

## **Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the peace of 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**      "Trio"      *Bach and Albrechtsberger*

**Presentation of the Gifts**      "Eat This Bread"      **Hymnal 472**

*Continue singing as the gifts are brought forward and the Table is prepared.*

*Refrain*

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'Eat This Bread'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The first system includes the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger." The second system includes the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

**Offering Prayer**

**L** Let us pray.

**A** **Merciful God, you open wide your hand  
and satisfy the need of every living thing.  
You have set this feast before us.  
Open our hands to receive it.  
Open our hearts to embrace it.  
Open our lives to live it.  
We pray this 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 there is nothing deceitful or shadowy in you, and every good and perfect gift comes from your hand. Your throne endures forever and ever, and in your passion and desire you conceived the entire universe. You gave your people your commandments, and called us to observe them diligently as a sign of your wisdom and discernment to the world. But we forgot the things our eyes had seen and let them slip from our minds.

Through your servant Moses your holy law was given, and through your Son, Jesus, it was cleansed of all that obscured its truth. Though he was opposed and killed by the powerful, you raised him from the grave, bringing all the world back to life. Now he seeks us out like an ardent lover to restore in us a passion for righteousness that brings forth purity and truth in both word and in action.

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 Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.  
You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.  
That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**A Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection,  
which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**A Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

P Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**A Amen. Come, Holy Spirit!**

P Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

**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 195

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.

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

“What Does the Lord Require of You”

To be sung as a round: the right side of the Assembly begins the song with line 1; the left side begins line 1 when the right side begins line 2. Everyone sings through all three lines twice.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of three staves each. The first system contains three lines of music with lyrics: 1. What does the Lord re - quire of you? 2. Jus - tice, kind - ness, 3. To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness. The second system contains three lines of music with lyrics: What does the Lord re - quire of you? walk hum - bly with your God. and walk hum - bly with your God. The score uses treble clefs and includes various note values and rests.

## Prayer after Communion

L Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

A Amen.

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

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**Sending of Communion**

P Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A Amen.**

**Sending Song** "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" *(printed on next page)* **Hymnal 772**

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

**Blessing**

P Go out, and be doers of the Word, and not just hearers. Cleanse your hearts of all pollution, be quick to listen and learn, welcome the Word that God implants in you, and bring it to birth in acts of righteousness and compassion.

And may God pour grace upon you and bless you forever;  
May + Christ Jesus reveal to you the truth of God's ways;  
and may the Holy Spirit fill your life with passion and love.

**A Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve in Christ's name!

**A Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

*Please stay for a time of fellowship immediately following the service.  
Come enjoy one another's company and hear about all the opportunities for service and community!*

**Serving in Worship today...**

Presiding Minister ..... Pr. Keith Fry  
Assisting Minister ..... Anne Heider  
Acolyte ..... Caroline Nakic  
Lector ..... Judy Kratochvil  
Communion Minister ..... Susan Ross  
Organist ..... Greg Hummel  
Table Preparation ..... Kathryn Skelton  
Communion Bread ..... Linda Edlund  
Ushers ..... Jim Rakowsky, Nicolai Schousboe

# Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - ues still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

## This Week's Commemorations

**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, d. 1872**

**Sunday, September 2, 2018**

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the 19th century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

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## What Matters

Remember grammar lessons? Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns all had specific purposes in a sentence, specific placements, and specific punctuation to go with them. The lesson drilled into grammar students was that knowing the rules about how to use words correctly is extremely important. Using slang and profanity was rebellion against those rules. Certain words and phrases may evoke feelings in each of us. The misuse of *your* and *you're* and nonstandard words like *irregardless* can irritate; words that some consider gross, like *moist* and *vomit*, can cause physical reactions. Even though we are taught that it's sticks and stones that break our bones, some words can injure us more deeply than any rock.

When some religious leaders are offended by how the disciples are eating, Jesus counters their complaints with one of his own: "Isaiah was right; you like to talk big, but you care more about your traditions than you do about honoring God." He tells those listening that being grammatically correct—following tradition—isn't what is necessary. The motivation behind the words we chose to speak and the impact those words have on others is what matters.

James, in today's second reading, takes Jesus' message a step further and tells his readers to "be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves" (*James 1:22*). We can't just listen, or only consider, or simply hear, then move on believing we did everything we were supposed to do. This is akin to caring more about whether a message is written with proper grammar than what the message actually says. James tells us that "the word" isn't just meant to evoke feelings in us, but to compel us to *do* the word.

For James, "the word" was true belief in God and doing the word—living that true belief—was caring for those in need, especially those who were sidelined or invisible because they didn't conform to strict guidelines or customs.

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday September 5	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Sunday September 9	Café Immanuel	9:00 AM
	God's Work, Our Hands	Noon–3:00

## 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
Jane Kaihatsu .....	Parish Administrator

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We've been worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**