



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
October 20, 2019**

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 until 1:00 P.M. 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! Activity bags are available from the greeters. 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! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. If you would like your child to commune, please let the pastor know. At the direction of the usher, come forward if you are able, and kneel or stand 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 or near 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 ...*

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is the encouragement of the Christ of the gospel today. Persistence in our every encounter with the Divine will be blessed. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the Divine will be blessed.

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

Pre-Service Music *Variations on "Lord Keep Us Steadfast" and "Rise My Soul to Watch and Pray"*
Bach et al.

The Assembly stands when directed and turns toward the font.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the strength of our ancestors,
the host of this meal,
the builder of the city that is to come.

A Amen.

P If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ.
Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence for reflection.

God our helper,

**A we confess the many ways
we have failed to live as your disciples.
We have not finished what we began.
We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers.
We have been captivated by our possessions.
Lift our burdens, gracious God.
Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.
Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent.
Put your trust in these promises:
God will never leave you or forsake you.
You who were lost have been found!
For the sake of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice with the angels at this good news!

A Amen.

Gathering Song

"Light Dawns on a Weary World" Hymnal 726

The Assembly turns to face the back doors. You may reverence the cross as it passes you.



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
horn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

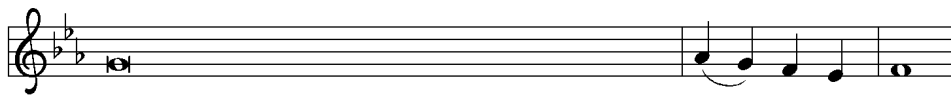
A And also with you!



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



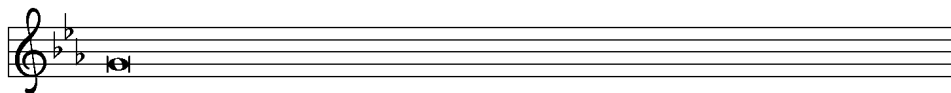
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



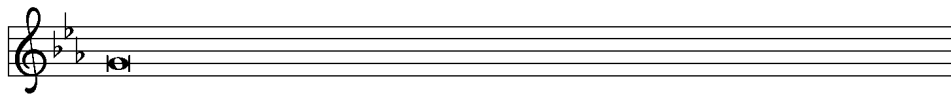
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



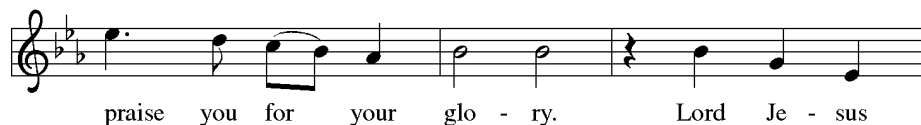
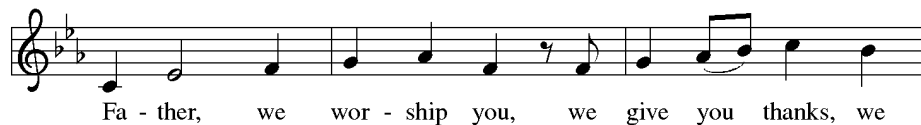
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



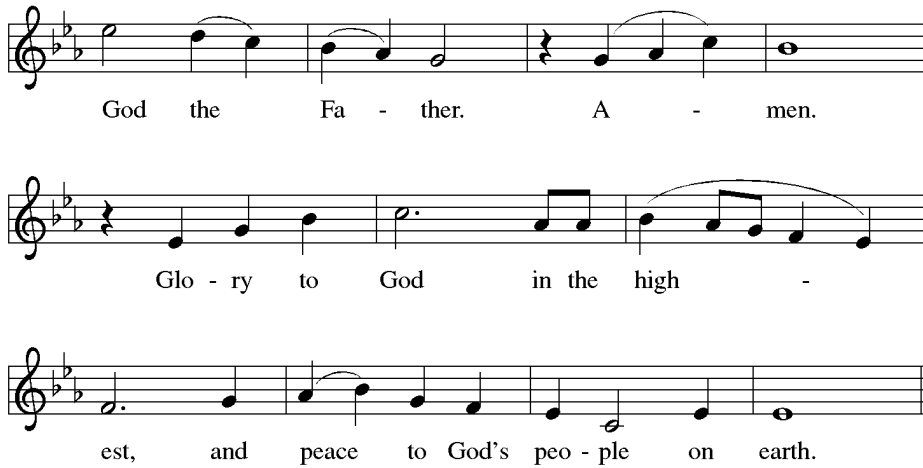
A - men, a - men.

Canticle of Praise

Hymnal p. 99



[cont.]



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 21:22-31

R A reading from Genesis.

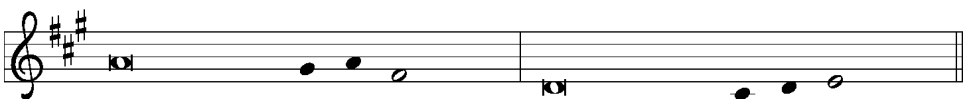
Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through.
 The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses.
 All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

Tone:**Refrain:**

My help comes from the LORD, the mak- er of heav- en and earth.

- ¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
- ²**My help comes | from the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
- ³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- ⁴**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R**
- ⁵the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶**the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.**
- ⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.
- ⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore. R**

R A reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

Paul continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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 p. 102

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

The word of God is liv | ing and active, * able to judge the | of the heart.
thoughts and intentions

Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

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

A Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus tells a parable of a hateful judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will a loving and just God respond to those who call?

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Alleluia portion of the Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then seated.

Sermon

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word 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 with song.

1 The num - ber - less gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can - not
 2 Like all of the stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can
 3 I'll nev - er count all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can

fath - om or tell. Like dew that ap - pears in the morn - ing,
 nev - er be told. They shine through the dark - ness of mid - night;
 give God my praise for all of that love, my thanks - giv - ing

they come to us shin - ing and full. The num - ber - less
 their beau - ties can nev - er grow old. Like all of the
 and love to the end of my days. I'll nev - er count

gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can - not fath - om or tell.
 stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can nev - er be told.
 all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can give God my praise!

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 Knowing the one in whom we trust, and with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

L Faithful partner, you will not leave us without a blessing. Wrestle with your church and renew it for the sake of the world. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Yehiel; for our pastor, Keith; for our president, Sara; for our Council; and for all those you have gathered here in your name. Preserve our life in you, so that we faithfully name you before the world. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Grant us joy in these autumn days. As the daylight shortens and summer's green abundance decays, scatter the seeds that will bring forth new life in the spring. Keep watch over your whole creation. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Mercifully extend your ancient promises to all people. Keep and defend the nations from all evil, and be their shade and protection. Held in your steadfast love, guide the human family in ways of mercy and justice. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Our help comes from you, maker of heaven and earth. Hear the cries of those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Serena Bernstein, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Judith Kratochvil, Ron Laudert, Richard Lewis, Alyssa Steinberg, David Smith, Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. Help us not to lose heart, so that your healing love might prevail in our lives. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Speak through us in our encounters with Holy Scripture. Hearten and strengthen ministers of faith formation, so that all who belong to you may be capable and equipped for good works in your name. 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 We thank you for your grace made manifest in the saints who have gone before us, remembering especially James of Jerusalem, Phillipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt. Living in hope, bring us all to the joyful feast that has no end. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

P Trusting and delighting in you, we commend all our lives into your loving hands. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Reflection on Gratitude and Generosity, Prayer

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

"I Lift Up Mine Eyes" Allen Pote
Dana Barron, Laura McDaniel, Flautists

Presentation of the Gifts

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal" **Hymnal 464**

The Assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward.

1. Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2. Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3. Grant for - give - ness in the feast, Je - sus, feed us

Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the - least; feed us with your love.

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to your service

and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption

of all that you have made,

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,

Jesus 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 up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

A It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Preface *The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:*

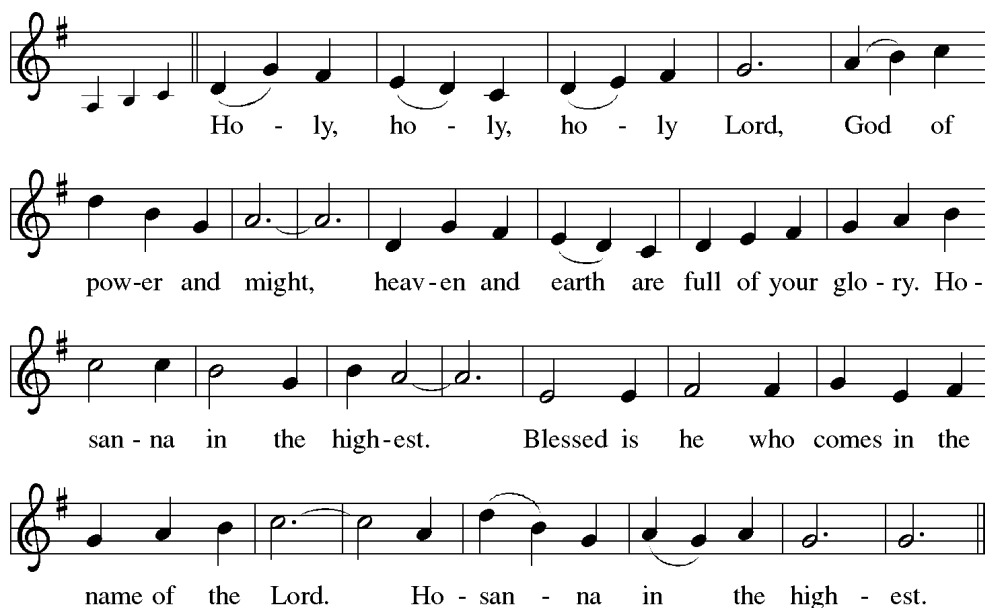
P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you watch over your people in steadfast love and mercy, and you neither slumber nor sleep. You made an eternal covenant with your people, and continued to bless even in the midst of struggle. Your faithfulness is sure, and you do not forget your promises.

In Jesus the Christ, you came to us again, offering a new covenant, written on our hearts, so that you might be our God, and we might know you, from the least to the greatest. When he was killed, you raised him to new life, and through him, you inspired sacred writings to help lead us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and to equip us for every good work, as with persistent prayer we seek to build your justice and plant your faithfulness on the earth.

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 James of Jerusalem, Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, Paul Gerhardt, 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 *The Assembly joins in singing:*

Hymnal, p. 144



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

A We praise you, O God!

P Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

A We bless you, O, God!

P We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

A We thank you, O, God!

P 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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 Taste and see that the Lord is good!

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. 112



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



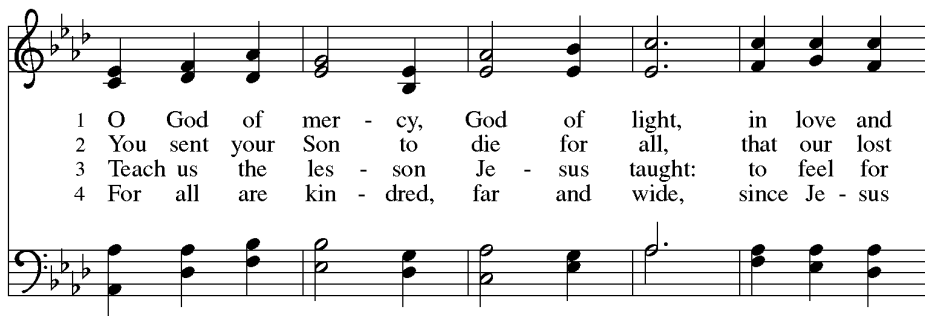
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Song

"O God of Mercy, God of Light" Hymnal 714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

The Assembly stands when directed by the Presiding Minister.

Blessing after Communion

P May the body and blood of our + Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

A Amen.

Post-Communion Song

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing” **Hymnal 544**

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Praise the Lord, rise up re-joic-ing, wor-ship, thanks, de- Sins for-giv-en, wrongs for-giv-ing, we go forth a- vo-tion and voic-ing: glo-ry be-to-rit, God strong and high! lert and liv-ing in your Spi-rit, God strong and high! Christ, your cross and your pas-sion shar-ing, by this eu-cha- Part-ners in your new cre-a-tion, seek-ing peace in rist de-clar-ing, yours the fi-nal vic-to-ry. ev-ry na-tion, may we faith-ful fol-l'wers be."

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus 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

"How Firm a Foundation" *[printed on next page]* **Hymnal 796**

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 continue in what you have learned and believed. Wrestle with God when you must, but seek to trust in God's faithfulness. Pray always, and do not lose heart. Be persistent. Proclaim God's message; endure hostility; carry out your ministry fully.

And may God be quick to answer your prayers;
may + Christ Jesus inspire faith within you;
and may the Holy Spirit tutor your hearts and equip you for every good work.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us!

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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

Refreshments 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.....	The Rev. Keith Fry
Assisting Minister.....	Kit McCarthy
Acolyte	Caroline Nakic
Lector	Steve Warner
Communion Minister	Anne Heider
Organist	Greg Hummel
Table Preparation.....	Kit McCarthy
Communion Bread.....	The Bread Bakers
Ushers.....	Terri Hummel

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

This Week's Commemorations

James of Jerusalem, martyr, d. ca. 62

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

Philipp Nicolai, d. 1608; Johann Heermann, d. 1647; Paul Gerhardt, d. 1676; hymnwriters

Saturday, October 26, 2019

These great hymnwriters all worked in 17th-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" and "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 20	Adult Spiritual Growth	9:00 AM
	Worship with Eucharist	10:30 AM
	Council Meeting	12:30 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 22	North Shores Squares	7:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 23	Choir Practice	7:30 PM
Thursday, Oct. 24	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Friday, Oct. 25	Thin Ice Halloween Fundraiser/Dance	5:00 PM
	Evening Quilters	7:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 26	Council Retreat	8:00 AM
Sunday, Oct. 27	REFORMATION SUNDAY	10:30 AM

Persistent Grace

Today's gospel is an encouragement to always be in prayer, but the parable Jesus uses to urge people to pray is a complicated one. Jesus says the judge is unjust. The widow in the story is persistent in pestering the judge for the verdict she seeks. The judge is not convinced by evidence or reason, but simply by the tenacity of the widow. The lesson Luke passes on is that we ought to cry out to God day and night with our prayers.

The parable says nothing directly about the content of those prayers. A quick reading might lead to a place of thinking anything we pray for will be answered if we are just persistent enough. Perhaps we can wear God down like the widow wore the judge down. This suggests an approach in which prayer is used to try to bend God's will to our own.

Rather than a force of will, Jesus encourages persistence because every aspect of our lives is worthy of being lifted in prayer to God. The Psalms show that we can and should lift our cries up to God as often as we experience them. God is able to handle any emotion or struggle we give voice to in prayer; speaking it all to God is part of grace-filled transformation.

Each Sunday we speak the words of the Lord's Prayer, requesting with our collective voice, "Your will be done." Instead of seeking to bend God's will to ours, we ask for our will to be shaped by God's. We pray for God's forgiveness and boldly claim our own role in forgiveness. We pray for sustenance and deliverance, all while inviting God's kingdom to come. God's kingdom is coming without our prayer, Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, but we pray these things so that we may see the kingdom come alive in and among us. We pray to be shaped by the endless, loving persistence of God's grace.

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Keith Fry.....	Pastor
Sara Krentz.....	Congregation President
Linda Edlund.....	Congregation Vice President
Susan Ross.....	Congregation Secretary
Tom Couch, Greg Hummel, Melisa Larson, Kevin McDaniel, Scott Romans, Erik Shearer, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff.....	Congregation Council Members
Joe Simchak.....	Treasurer
Mary Ann Kearns.....	Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Stegner.....	Assistant Financial Secretary
James Morehead.....	Music Director
Greg Hummel.....	Organist
Laurie Stivers.....	Associate Organist
Jane Kaihatsu.....	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!**