

Festival of All Saints (observed)

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist November 3, 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.

In Holy Baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In Holy Communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In the assembly today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest," who have fought the good fight, who have gained the crown. In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of the Lord Jesus in today's gospel. Recalling that we have been sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we "keep on keeping on" as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's glory.

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

#### **Pre-Service Music**

Selections from the works of Alain, Langlais, and Franck

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**

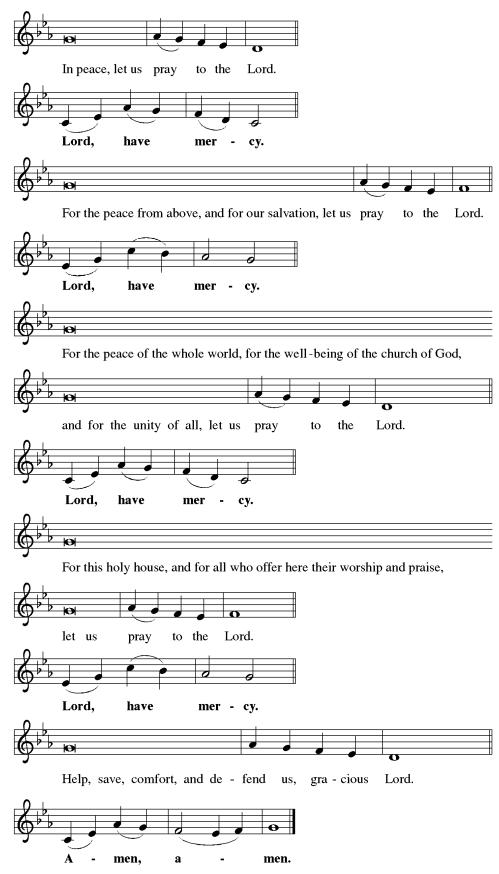
## "Rejoice in God's Saints" Hymnal 418

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

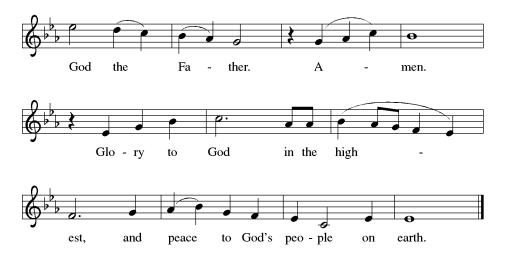


## Greeting

- 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!







## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

## Welcome and Announcements

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

## **Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

## Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

R A reading from the Prophet Daniel.

The Book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel's vision of the four beasts serves to proclaim the message that human rulers will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God's people.

<sup>1</sup>In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: <sup>2</sup>I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, <sup>3</sup>and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

<sup>15</sup>As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. <sup>16</sup>I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: <sup>17</sup>"As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

- R Word of God, word of life.
- A Thanks be to God!

#### Psalm 149

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."



#### **Reading from the New Testament**

R A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, Paul prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.

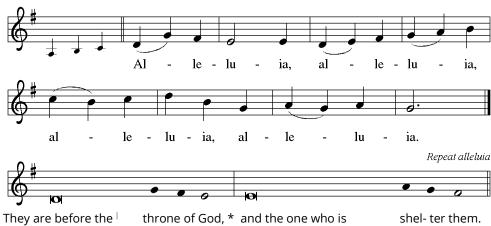
<sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- 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

seated on the throne will

#### Luke 6:20–31

## Gospel

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

## A Glory to you, O Lord!

In echoes of the prophet Isaiah and Mary's song of praise, Jesus reveals surprising things about who enjoys blessing and who endures woe. He invites his disciples to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust, even to enemies and outsiders.

<sup>20</sup>Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

- <sup>21</sup>"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.
- "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.
- <sup>22</sup>"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup>"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you."

- 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.

#### Hymn of the Day



## 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.

## Remembrance of New Saints through Baptism and of Those who Have Died in the Lord

At this time, we will give thanks to the Lord for those new saints who became part of the Church through baptism this year, and then we will read the names of those saints who have died in the Lord whom you have asked that we remember. Some have died recently, while others died some time ago, but all are alive in Christ.

At the end of the reading of the names, anyone who wishes to remember a loved one before God and the Assembly, even those not in this list, is invited to come forward up the center aisle during the singing of the Hymn of Thanksgiving, printed on the next two pages, as the ushers direct.

Take a candle, which will be lighted for you from the Paschal candle by the ministers, place it in the receptacle (beginning at the back of the receptacle and working forward), then return to your seat by the side aisle. Please use caution around the flames!

*New saints by baptism:* Liam Robert Lamberg Brown, Rosalind Janice Jones, Theodore James Otto

#### Those who have died in the Lord:

**James Adams** Evelyn Fry Aker Gust and Evelyn Anderson Marcella Anderson Fred and Mary Anliker Sidney and Frances Balder **Russell Balder** Herman and Leora Beveroth David Blum Axel and Jennie Carlson Harold and June Carlson Alice and John Carmichael Patricia Couch Frieda and Desimir Djuric Jeanie Friel Rev. Norman and Jo Ann Fry Rose and John Hancko Joseph and Alene Harrington **Diethild Harrington Richard Heyl** Jonathan Hoefker Harold Henry Hoefker Betty Jane Hoefker

Nancy Marie Hoefker Edith "Judy" Hokenson Osborne and Lavera Hummel Grace Hyland Alfred George Imhoff Donna Imhoff Yolanda Imhoff Alice and Dewey Irgang Charles Keely Barbara Kremer Mary Kubber Axel and Gerda Larson Harold and Maxine Larson Robert "Bob" Larson Vernon and Ann Lee Cam and Betty Lee Paul and Ada Lowe Helen Sterling McDaniel **Dorothy McNeil** Monte J. Meldman Alice Nakic Thomas J. Nakic Edward Nelson

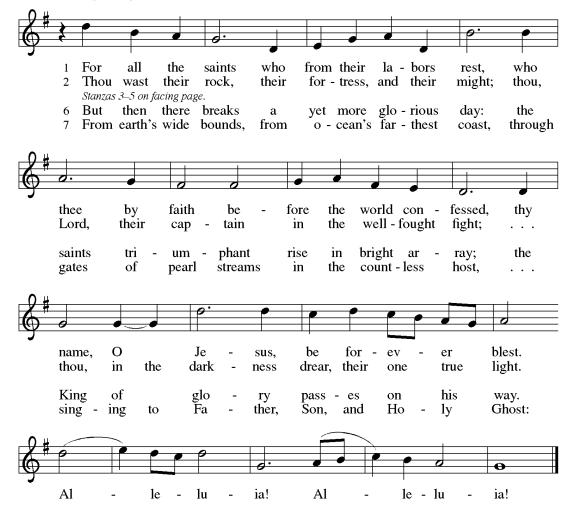
Pr. Paul Sampsell Ingvar Schousboe Vibeke Schousboe lanet Sevilla Geneva Skillstad Shopen Augusta Simchak loe Skelton Susanna Smoot William Richard Stegner **Reinhard Stehn Dorothy Stivers** John Strom Marlena Sutton Bernhard and Wilma Urban **Randy Walker** Ingeborg Ward Ethelyn S. and Robert M. Warner Michael R. Warner Sam Wee Dolores Wierzbicki Verona Wilde Will Wotring

#### Immanuel's Gold Star Veterans:

Raymond Arnold Anderson	John Evert Johnson	lvar Leonard Peterson
Robert Torsten Bergendorff	Carl Edward Lindquist	Arvid Sternquist

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymnal 422



<sup>[</sup>vv. 3-5 are on the following page]



<sup>[</sup>return to previous page for vv. 6–7]

## **Prayers of the People**

- L United with the saints of every time and place, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- L Almighty God, in your great love and forgiveness, you call us your saints, your "ones being made holy." We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Yehiel; our pastor, Keith; our president, Sara; our Council; and all those you have gathered here in your name. Direct us now in your way of servanthood so that the whole world will know your unending love. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L Life-giving God, you shower your creation with blessings of abundance. Sustain us with your blessing, so that we never cease to protect and find joy in your creation. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L God of all nations, you raise up leaders to govern the nations. Give us clear vision and a spirit of wisdom when we choose our leaders and representatives, and empower those in positions of authority to work for justice and harmony. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L Compassionate God, you look upon the lowly and call them blessed. Bless the poor, the hungry, and those who suffer persecution. Comfort those who mourn, those having to make hard decisions, those who are lonely, and all who are in need, remembering especially Serena Bernstein, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Judith Kratochvil, Ron Laudert, Richard Lewis, David Smith, Alyssa Steinberg, Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

L Merciful God, you redeem your people and seal us with the promise of your Holy Spirit. Guide the newly baptized as they embrace their new identity as holy children of God. Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

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 Hear us, O God.

## A Your mercy is great.

- L We give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us, remembering especially Martín de Porres, renewer of society; John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, and Ludwig Nommensen, missionaries; and all those who died this past year. Through their faithful witness, we continue to set our hope on Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God,
- A Your mercy is great.
- 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**

"Blessed Are the Dead Who Die in the Lord" Carl Schalk

*Text based on Revelation 14:13:* 

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

## **Presentation of the Gifts**

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

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





## **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 We do indeed give you our thanks and praise, O God, for by your great power you have called us to a rich hope and pledged us a glorious inheritance among the saints. In time before dreaming, you sent the wind to stir up the sea of chaos and bring forth the earth. Through your law and prophets you promised us that your Realm would belong forever to those who embraced your holiness.

Through your son, Jesus Christ, you proclaimed a day when the hungry will feast and the mourners laugh. When he was killed on the cross you raised him from the dead and seated him at your right hand. In him you give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so we might know that hope to which you have called us, and embody the fullness of Christ who fills all in all.

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 Martín de Porres, John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen, 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

## 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:



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.



## 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

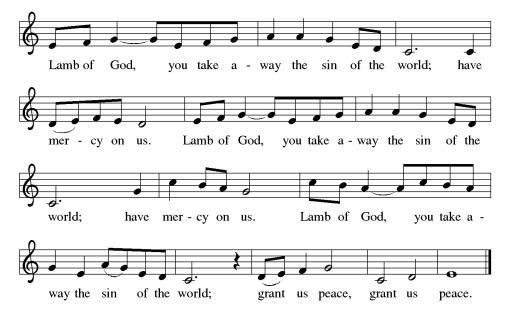
- L Taste and see that the Lord is good!
- A Thanks be to God!

#### **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





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.



#### **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.

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#### 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**

"For All Your Saints" [printed on next page] Hymnal 427

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

#### Blessing

P Go now with your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love open to all God's people. Bless those who curse you, love those who hate you, give to all who beg of you, and treat others as you would wish them to treat you.

And may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation; may + Christ Jesus count you among his saints for eternity; and may the Holy Spirit mark you out for fullness of redemption.

A Amen.

## Dismissal

- L Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us!
- A Thanks be to God!

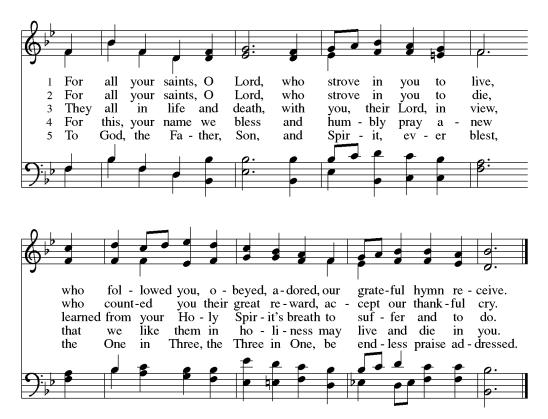
#### Postlude

Please stay for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. Refreshments are provided by the Shearer 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	Caroline Nakic
Acolytes	
Lector	
Communion Minister	Susan Ross, Terri Hummel
Organist	Greg Hummel
Table Preparation	
Communion Bread	
Ushers	Nicolai Schousboe

## For All Your Saints, O Lord



## This Week's Commemorations

#### Martín de Porres, renewer of society, d. 1639 Sunday, November 3, 2019

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed black slave from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

# John Christian Frederick Heyer, d. 1873; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, d. 1719; Ludwig Nommensen, d. 1918; missionaries

#### Thursday, November 7, 2019

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India, Ziegenbalg was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities who favored a different missionary style. He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. Nommensen was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary. Working among the Batak people, he translated the scriptures into their language, and honored their native culture.

## **Upcoming Events**

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Tuesday, Nov. 5	North Shore Squares	7:00 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 6	Choir Practice	7:30 PM
Thursday, Nov. 7	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Saturday, Nov. 9	Evanston Go Tournament	8:00 AM
Sunday, Nov. 10	Adult Spiritual Growth	9:00 AM
	Worship with Eucharist	10:30 AM

## Weeping and Laughing

A midwife who knows the birthing process well observes that grief is like labor, only backwards. Close to the loss, the "contractions" of grief are intense and very close together. Over time, the pain becomes less intense and the intervals between times of deep sadness grow longer. Grief, like labor, is more like a circle than a line. When we expect the easing of grief to follow a straight line—imagining that today should be better than yesterday, and tomorrow a little better still—we are shocked and frustrated when another wave of weeping overtakes us. Hope rises, only to be dashed.

To those putting one foot in front of the other on the winding route that is grief, Jesus says simply, "You will laugh." It is a promise. Weeping will not consume you. Grief will not be allowed to draw the boundaries of your future. Jesus acknowledges the present state of things, and yet, here and now, he sees a different future.

In Luke's Gospel today, Jesus puts that different future into words so we can see it too. These verses do not offer pity or sympathy. They do not give us a to-do list. Here Jesus speaks of a time and place that, without his words and deeds, we could not imagine. He draws the outlines of a future—the reign of God—into which he invites us now.

When we light candles in memory of loved ones who have died, when in our prayers we give thanks for those who have gone before us, and when we gather at the table of the Lord as one body with saints above and saints below, our words and deeds testify to the future Jesus announced: we are joined with him in divine love so faithful that its bonds are unbroken even by death. Here and now, through tears, we laugh. The Risen One has given us the hope and courage we need to trust him with our future.

## Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Keith Fry	Pastor
Sara Krentz	
Linda Edlund	Congregation Vice President
Susan Ross	Congregation Secretary
Tom Couch, Greg Hummel, Melisa Larson, Kevin McDaniel, Scott Romans, E	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!