

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022 7:00 P.M.

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 this evening! 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.

Please keep your masks on during the worship service.

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 Ash Wednesday 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 is printed in this bulletin. If you're joining us via Zoom, please remain muted until you get to the part where you will be invited to unmute and participate in some parts of the liturgy, as marked by this symbol. $\mathbb{Q} = \mathsf{UNMUTE}$

Receiving Holy Communion

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal because Christ invites you! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. For safety we have individually packaged communion with either wine or grape juice that you can pick up at the entrance of the sanctuary. We will commune all together in the pews at the designated time. Please deposit the cups and wrappers in the trash receptacles as you leave the sanctuary.

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

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

We gather in meditative silence. Please stand when directed.

Greeting

- P The Lord be with you.
- A And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

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

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 58:1-12

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,

to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways

and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? 8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt: you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach,

R Word of God, word of life.

the restorer of streets to live in.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 51:1-17

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:

ELW Psalm Tone 9, 3 Flats

Refrain:



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your [|] steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out [|] my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know ^I my offenses, and my sin is ev- ^I er before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R

⁵Indeed, I was born ^I steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my ^I mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ^I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur- ^I er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R

⁹Hide your face [|] from my sins, and blot out [|] all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away [|] from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- [|] it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of [|] your salvation and sustain me with your boun- [|] tiful Spirit. R

¹³Let me teach your ways ¹ to offenders, and sinners shall be re- ¹ stored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of ¹ my salvation, and my tongue shall sing ¹ of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, o- ^I pen my lips,

and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or ¹ I would give it.

You are not pleased | with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a ¹ troubled spirit;

a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will 1 not despise. R

Reading from the New Testament

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

- R A reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians.
 - ^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 - ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

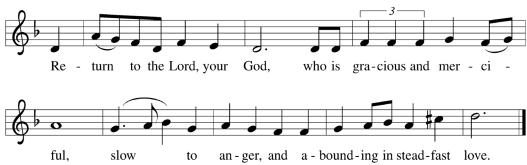
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

- P This is the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
- A Glory to you, O Lord!

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Assembly is 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.



Invitation to Lent

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The ministers kneel. The Assembly is seated, bowed in a posture of penitence.

- P Most holy and merciful God,
- A we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.We have not been true to the mind of Christ.We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

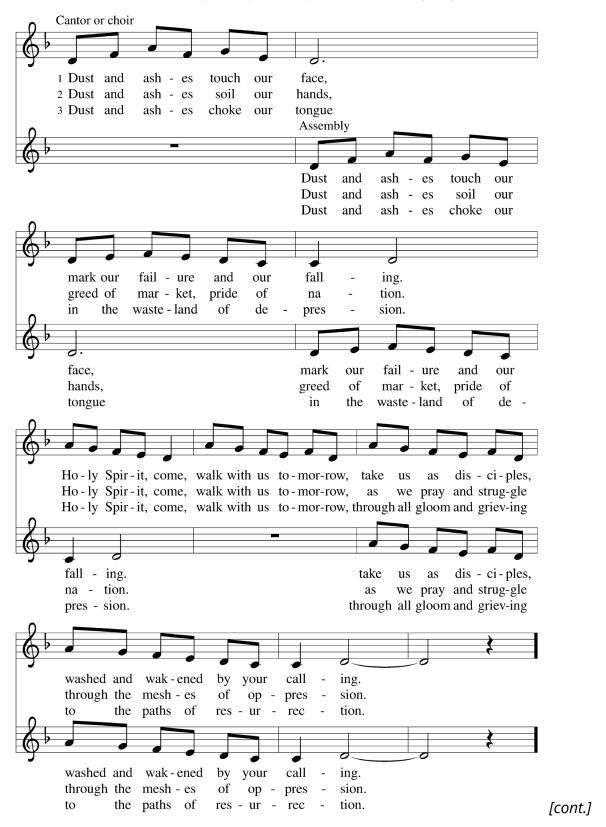
- P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- A Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

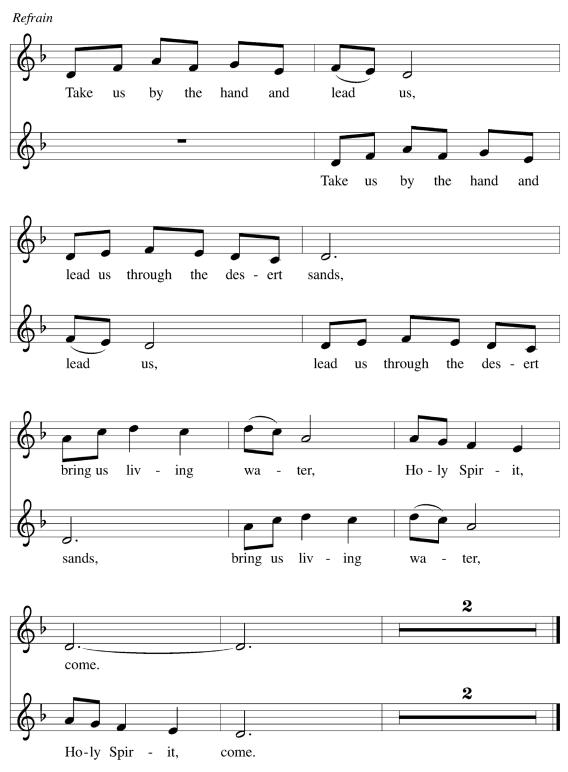
Blessing of the Ashes

- P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- A Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

All those who wish may come forward to receive the sign of ashes. Please keep masked and maintain 6 ft. of distance as you come forward one at a time on the left of right side of the altar rail. You may kneel or stand to receive the ashes, then return to your seat.





When all who desire them have received ashes, the Assembly stands.

- P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
- A (1) that we may show forth your glory in the world.
- P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
- A bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.
- P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our + Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
- A Amen.

Prayers of the People

L Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

[A brief silence.]

L Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,

A N receive our prayer.

L We pray for the church. Turn our lives toward you in repentance. Turn our hearts toward our neighbors in love. Turn our actions toward the world in mercy. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor, Mark, our president, Dana, for our Council, our anti-racism task force, and for all those you have gathered here in your name. Renew us in faith, in prayer, and in compassion. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief, especially those we name now aloud, Steve Andes, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Marcie Heyl, Jim Jung, Judith Kratochvil, John and Nancy Lang, Veronica Repasz, Lorrie Roche, Joanne Shearer, Darryl Simchak, Lloyd Stivers, Grace and Alex, and those we name in our hearts [...]. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,

A receive 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.

O Lord, hear our prayer. [Refrain]

L As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you, especially John Wesley and Charles Wesley, whom we commemorate today. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

P Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

A Amen.

Peace

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- A 🐧 And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of the Risen Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...

Offering An

An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need. You scan this code with your smartphone camera to make your financial offering online.

Offering Music

"Purge Me, O Lord" By Thomas Tallis

Purge me, O Lord, from all my sin, and save thou me by faith from ill, that I may rest and dwell in thee, upon thy holy blessed hill. And that done, grant that with true heart I may without hypocrisy affirm the truth, detract no man, but do all things with equity.

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



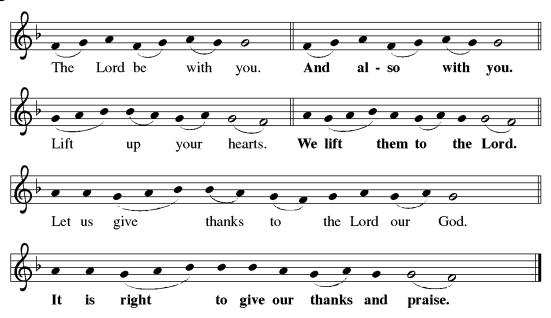
Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
- L Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue



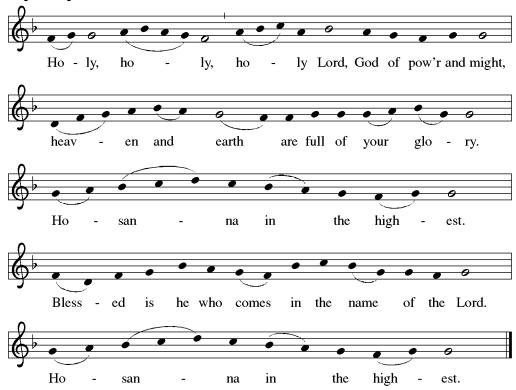
Preface The Presiding Minister continues with the prayer:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A ① Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

A @ Amen

P Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

A Amen

P Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

A Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- L Here is food and drink for the journey.
- A May we be filled with your presence.

Distribution of Holy Communion

P This is the body of Christ, given for you. *All communing may partake of the bread*

P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *All communing may drink of their cup.*

The Assembly stands as directed.

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. Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

A Amen.

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

Blessing

P You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, +bless you this day and always.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly departs in silence.

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister	Laurie Stivers
Cantor	
Lector	Dana Barron
Organist	Greg Hummel
Music Director	James Morehead
Table Preparation	Kathryn Skelton
Zoom Host	Tom Couch
Audio-Visual Technicians	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel, Tyler Heyl, Mark Kearns
Ushers	TBD

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Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Dana Barron	Congregation President
Bert Mount	Congregation Vice President
Steve Warner	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Diane Keely, Michael Kloster, Lisa Larson, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff	Congregation Council Members
Mary Ann Kearns	Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Stegner	Assistant Financial Secretary
James Morehead	Music Director
Greg Hummel	Organist
Laurie Stivers	Associate Organist
Christine Kraemer	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!