



**Immanuel
Lutheran**
of Evanston

Midweek Lenten Series
Open My life, Lord

Week 1
Open My Eyes, Lord

March 9, 2022
7:00 P.M.



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Welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

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

We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

We're glad God has called you here 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!

Open My Eyes, Lord

Paul saw the light of Christ shining around him on the road to Damascus. As individuals and communities, what do we have difficulty seeing? How does our perspective change when we view the world through the eyes of Christ?

P: Presiding Minister A: Assembly

The Assembly stands.

Welcome

P We look but do not see.

A Lord, open our eyes.

P We stumble at noon as in the twilight.

A Lord, open our eyes.

P God turns our darkness into light.

A Lord, open our eyes.

P We are not forsaken: look up and see!

A Lord, open our eyes.

(Based on Isaiah 59:10; 42:16-18)

Gathering Song

"Be Thou, My Vision" ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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. ...Open our eyes, Lord, to perceive your desire for the world.
Remove those things that block our vision and widen our gaze to encompass
all you would have us see. In Jesus' name we pray,

A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 119: 17-24 *(read responsively by whole verse)*

¹⁷Deal bountifully with your servant,
so that I may live and observe your word.
¹⁸**Open my eyes, so that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.**
¹⁹I live as an alien in the land;
do not hide your commandments from me.
²⁰**My soul is consumed with longing
for your ordinances at all times.**

²¹You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,
who wander from your commandments;

²²**take away from me their scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your decrees.**

²³Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on your statutes.

⁴**Your decrees are my delight,
they are my counselors.**

Reading from the New Testament

Acts 26:4-18

⁴All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. ⁵They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived as a Pharisee. ⁶And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, ⁷a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, that I am accused by Jews! ⁸Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

⁹Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. ¹¹By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

¹²With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. ¹⁴When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.' ¹⁶But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint

you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. ¹⁷I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles — to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Reflection



1 Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to
 2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: hear when our
 3 Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our
 4 Talk with us, till we be - hold a joy - ful
 5 Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor



you this day be sung. Bless our bread, o - pen our
 wea - ry spir - its cry. Feel a - gain our loss, our
 weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, for - give our
 life you will un - fold. Heal our eyes to see the
 dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
 pain: Je - sus, take us to your side.
 fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
 prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
 part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

Prayers of the People

L Lord of all life,
when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,
(you're invited to point toward your eyes)

A open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.

L When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,
(You're invited to stretch out your arms)

A open our hands to do your work in the world.

L When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,
(you're invited to point toward your ears)

A open our ears, that all will know your love.

L When we are hardened against our neighbor,
(you're invited to place your hands over your heart)

A open our hearts and heal our resentment.

L When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,
(you're invited to raise your arms to God)

open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.

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.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting
in your mercy as you open up our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

**A Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
forever and forever. Amen.**

Offering

*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. You may also place your offering in the plates
provided as you enter or leave the sanctuary.*



Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

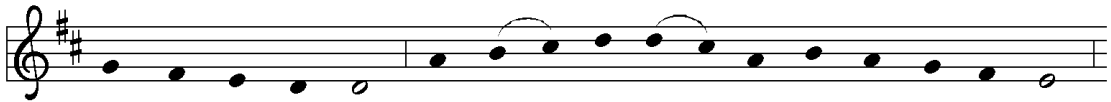
A Amen.

Sending Song

"Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" ELW 402



1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ, I know not how to
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day; help me to see your
3 Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need to serve my God and



ask or what to say; I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,
pur - pose and your will, where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;
all hu - man - i - ty; ful - fill - ment of my life in love out-poured:



and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.
held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me. A - men.

Blessing

P Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life ✝ bless you now and forever.

A  Amen.

Dismissal

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.

Serving in worship this evening..

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Mark Sloss
Organist	Laurie Stivers
Music Director.....	James Morehead
Zoom Host.....	Tom Couch
Audio-Visual Technicians.....	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel, Tyler Heyl, Mark Kearns
Usher.....	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 worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!