

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist January 26, 2025

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.

Masks are now optional during 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. 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 ushers. 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. The liturgy is printed in this bulletin. If you're worshipping 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. $\frac{1}{2}$ = 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. There are two options: You may come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. The other option is we have individually packaged communion with either wine or grape juice that you can pick up at the entrance of the sanctuary. The pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you" following the singing of the Communion Song. Please deposit the cups and wrappers in the trash receptacles as you leave the sanctuary.

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

P: Presiding Minister L: Leader/Assisting Minister R: Reader A: Assembly

+ All may make the sign of the cross.

Prelude "Fantasia" by J.P. Sweelinck and Variations on "Dove of Peace" by David P. Dahl

Confession and Forgiveness

The Assembly stands as able. All may make the sign of the cross +, the sign that is marked at baptism as the presiding minister begins.

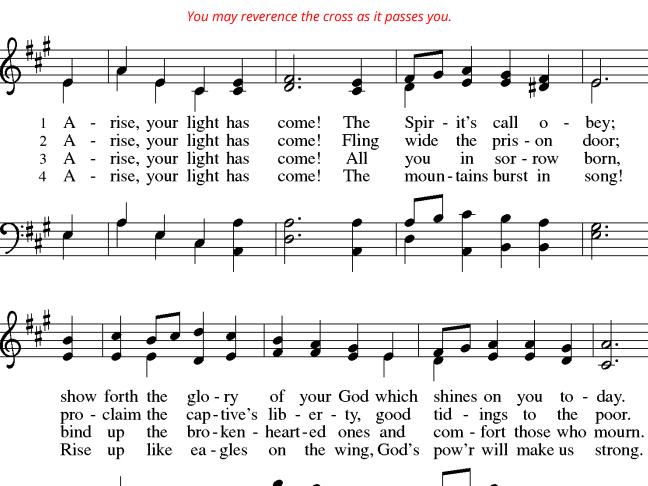
- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
- A 🔮 Amen.
- P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Merciful God,
- A you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
 Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
 We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
 we resist your call to oppose injustice;
 we give in to scarcity and fear;
 we assume the worst about one another.
 Cleanse us from our faults
 and release us from their grasp.
 Show us your lovingkindness.
 Restore our hearts and repair your world,
 that we may live in Christ's ways.
- A 🔮 Amen.
- P God proclaims these words of assurance:
 "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
 I have called you by name. You are mine."
 In + Christ, you are forgiven.
 In the Spirit, you are made free.
 Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
 live anew as beloved children of God.
- A Amen.

Gathering Song

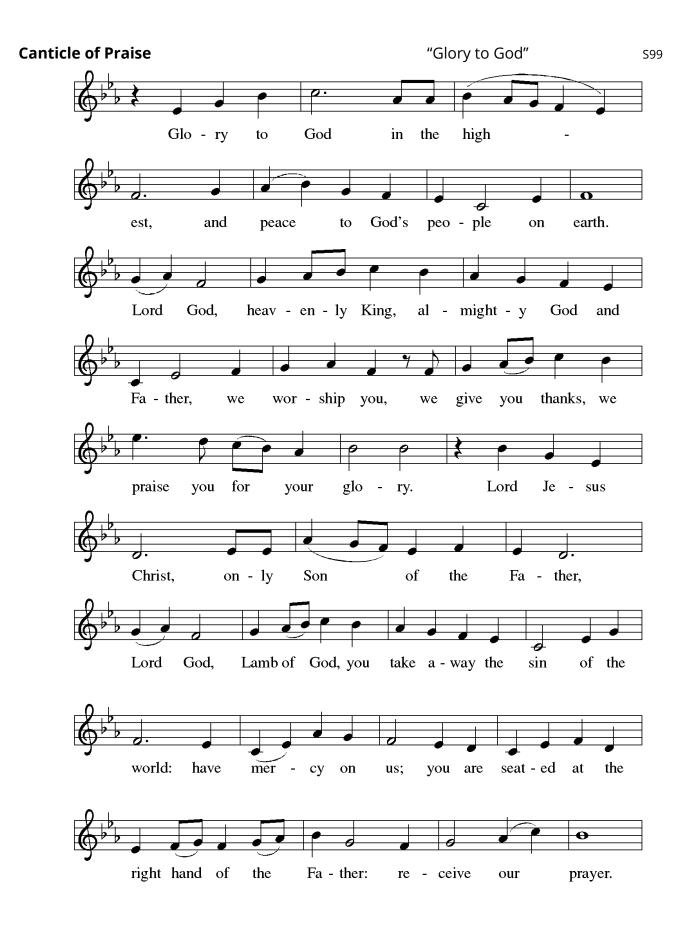
"Arise, Your Light Has Come!" (FESTAL SONG)





Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus, 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 The Lord be with you.
- A And also with you.
- P Let us pray...

Pause for a moment of silence...

- P Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

R A reading from Nehemiah.

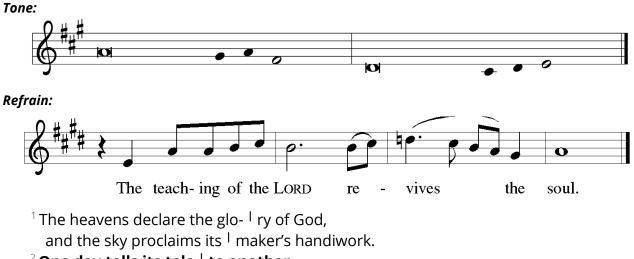
¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

- R The Word of the Lord. Or, 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."



² One day tells its tale [|] to another, and one night imparts knowledge [|] to another.

³ Although they have no ¹ words or language,

and their voices | are not heard,

 $^{\rm 4}$ their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends $^{\rm |}$ of the world,

where God has pitched a tent [|] for the sun.

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out ¹ of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to ¹ run its course.

⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end f^{\dagger} it again:

of [|] it again;

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. R

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-¹ vives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom ¹ to the simple.

⁸ The statutes of the Lord are just and re- [|] joice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and en-¹ dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous [|] altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than ¹ much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey ¹ in the comb. R

- ¹¹ By them also is your ser-¹ vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is ¹ great reward.
- ¹² Who can detect one's [|] own offenses? Cleanse me from my [|] secret faults.

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion ¹ over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a [|] great offense.

 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable 1 in

your sight, O LORD, my strength and [|] my redeemer. R

Reading from the New Testament

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

R A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

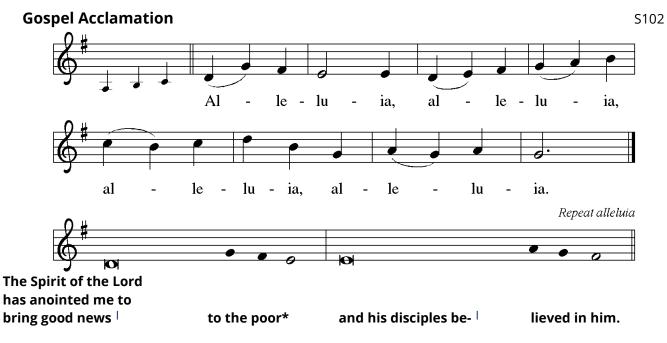
¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.

A 🔮 Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.



Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.".

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then seated.

Sermon Time of Silence

A bell will 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.



The Apostle's 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 4 resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

L With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(brief pause)

L As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

A 🞍 hear our prayer.

L As your compassion is boundless, we fill our hearts with love for others. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor Mark, our president Michael, our council, our ministries, and all who guide and instruct our community. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

L As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

L As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

- L As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery, especially, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Marlene Chatain, Nancy Graf, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Mark Kraemer, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Kathy Roderer, Steve Warner, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. God of grace,
- A hear our prayer.

L As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,

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 God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

- L As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church especially Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, Phoebe, and Thomas Aquinas, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace,
- A hear our prayer.
- P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- A Amen.

Peace

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

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

The Assembly is seated.

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

Offering An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.

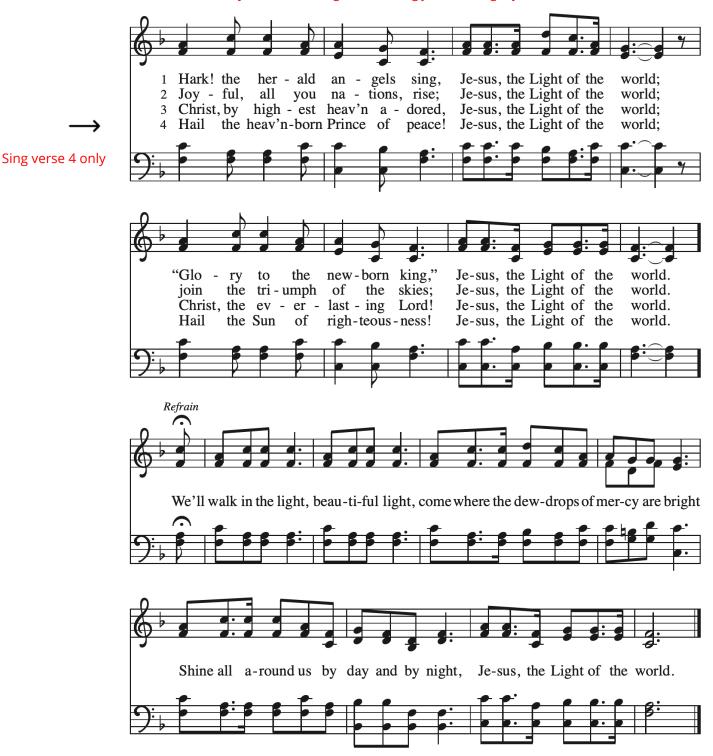
Offering Music

"Freedom Is Coming" Traditional South African

Oh, Freedom! Freedom is Coming. Oh, yes, I know. Oh, Jesus! Jesus is Coming. Oh, yes, I know.

Presentation of the Gifts "Jesus, the Light of the World" (WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT) ACS 914

The Assembly stands and sings v. 4 as the gifts are brought forward.



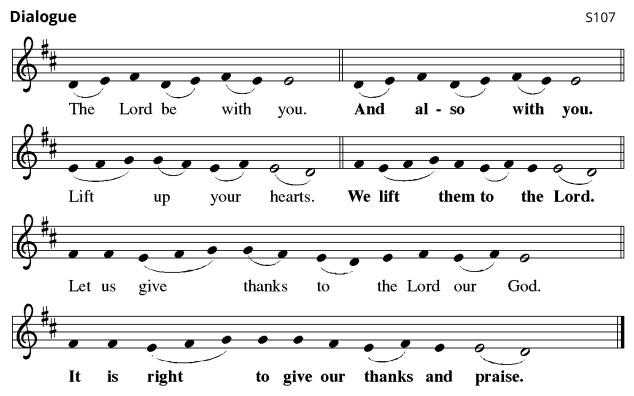
Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
- L God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

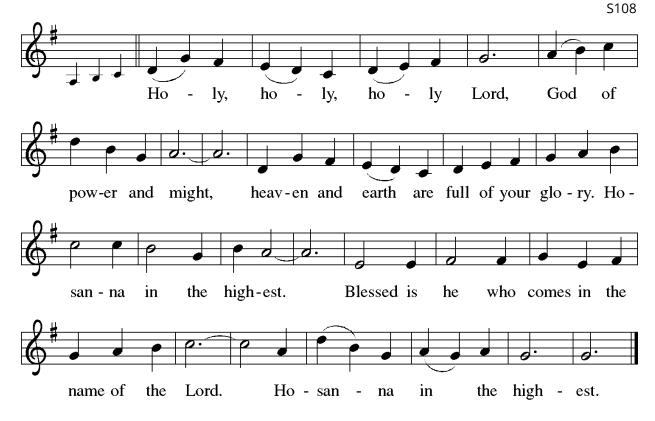
A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



Preface The Presiding Minister begins 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.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:



Thanksgiving at the Table

Ρ Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might. 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, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

A Amen.

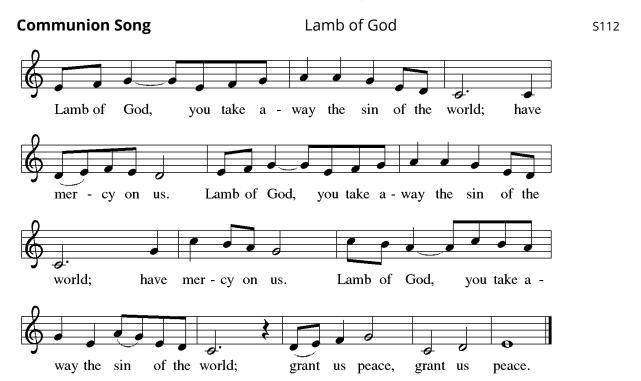
The Lord's Prayer

- 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

- P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.
- A 🏾 We come to the table with open hearts

The Assembly is seated.

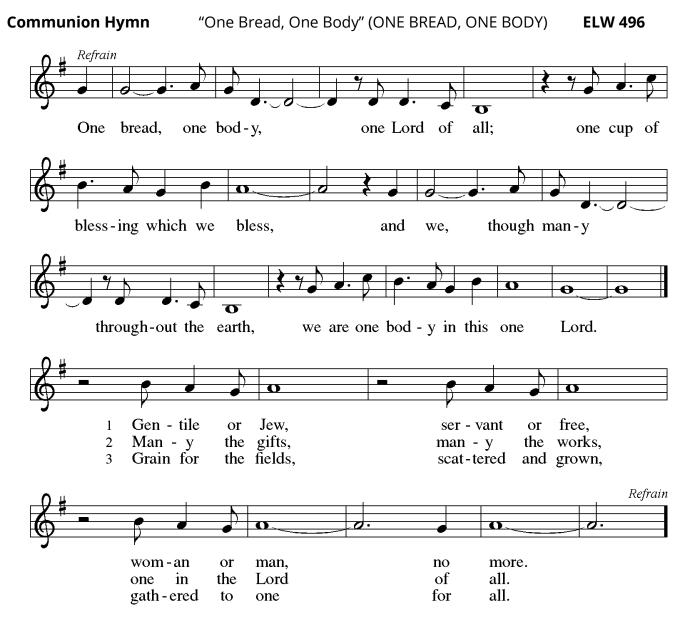


Distribution of Holy Communion

For those who are communing with the packets or online, the pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to assemble around the rail to receive communion. Those who are able may kneel. You will receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion.

- P This is the body of Christ, given for you. All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread.
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.
 All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup.
 When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen."



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

- Let us pray...
 Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.
 Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray.
- A Amen.

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

Blessing

- P The Spirit of the triune God
 + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
- A 🔮 Amen.

This week's commemorations....

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries Sunday, January 26, 2025

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Monday, January 27, 2025

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

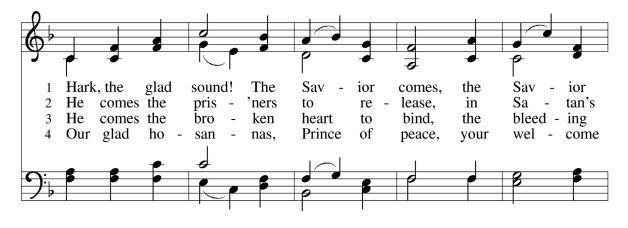
Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274 Tuesday, January 28, 2025

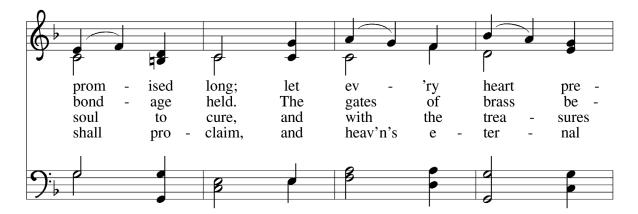
One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

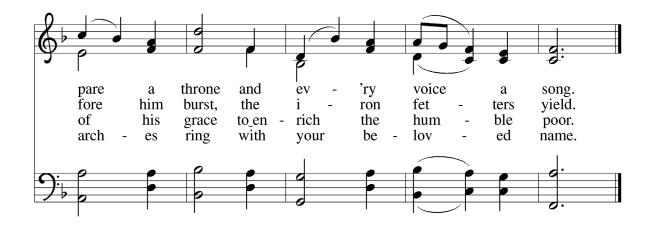
From sundaysandseasons.com.

Sending Song

"Hark, the Glad Song!" (CHESTERFIELD) ELW 239







Dismissal

- L Go in peace. Live in hope.
- A 🔮 Thanks be to God.

"Toccata" by J.P. Sweelinck

Postlude

Please stay for a time of fellowship and announcements immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. Today's refreshments are hosted by Terri Simchak & Kit McCarthy. Come enjoy one another's company and learn what's happening in and throughout the Immanuel congregation!!

To join coffee hour via Zoom on a smartphone, scan with your camera to get the link.



Serving in worship today...

| Presiding Minister | The Rev. Mark Sloss |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Assisting Minister | Chris Djuric |
| Lector | |
| Acolyte | Kit McCarthy |
| Organist | Christine Kraemer |
| Music Director | James Morehead |
| Table Preparation | Kit McCarthy |
| Zoom Host | Bert Mount |
| Audio-Visual Technician | Kevin McDaniel |
| Ushers | Joe & Terri Simchak |
| Counter | TBD |

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Upcoming Events – for details see the weekly e-blast, *Immanuel Newsfeeds,* or the website Calendar at <u>www.immanuelevanston.org</u>. Worship services can be attended either in person or online.

| Sunday, Jan. 26 | Annual Meeting | 1:00 pm |
|--------------------|---|----------|
| Tuesday, Jan. 28 | Tai Chi Class | 6:30 am |
| | Midweek Gathering on Zoom | 2:00 pm |
| Wednesday, Jan. 29 | FA Meeting | 6:30 pm |
| | Choir Practice | 7:30 pm |
| Thursday, Jan. 30 | Tai Chi Class | 6:30 am |
| | Wilmette Band Rehearsal | 7:30 pm |
| Saturday, Feb. 1 | Indoor Farmers' Market | 8:00 am |
| Sunday, Feb. 2 | Feeding Our Faith | 9:00 am |
| | Sunday Worship | 10:30 am |
| | Justice & Equity Ministry Talk: A Japanese-American Family's Experience, WWII | 11:45 am |

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

| The Rev. Mark Sloss | Pastor |
|--|------------------------------|
| Michael Kloster | Congregation President |
| Terri Simchak | Congregation Vice President |
| Dana Barron | Congregation Secretary |
| Susan Ross | Congregation Treasurer |
| Greg Hummel, Diane Keely, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Steve Warner | Congregation Council Members |
| Laurie Stivers | Financial Secretary |
| James Morehead | Music Director |
| Christine Kraemer | 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!