

The Third Sunday of Lent

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist March 23, 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.

■ = 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.

Gathering: The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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

+ All may make the sign of the cross.

Confession and Forgiveness

Prelude

Grand Jeu, Récit, Dialogue by Louis Marchand

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- A Amen.
- P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. Silence is kept for reflection.
- P Compassionate One,
- A you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

 We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

 We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

 We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

- A 🚇 Amen.
- P Beloved in Christ,
 God's arms are always stretched open wide
 to welcome the wandering ones home.
 In + Christ your sins are forgiven.
 You have a place in God's house forever.
- A Amen.

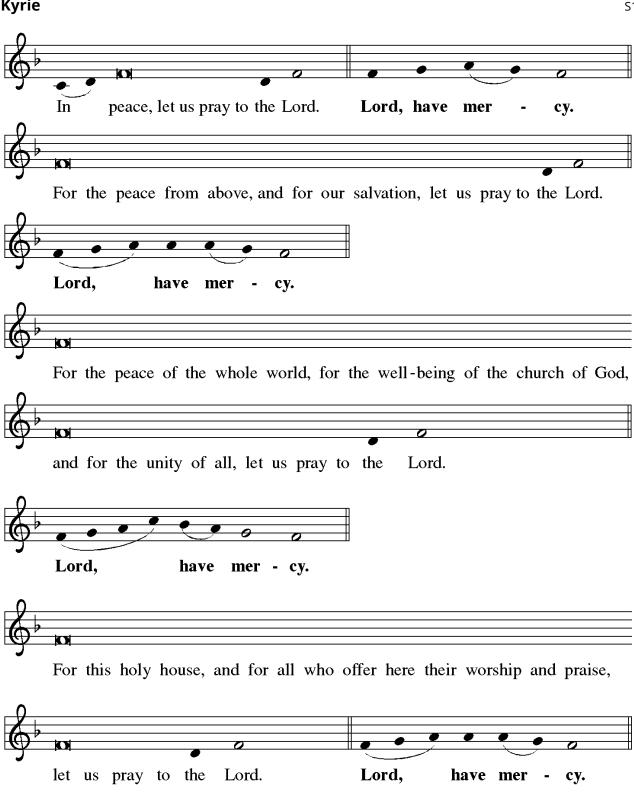
You may reverence the cross as it passes you.



Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A B And also with you!

Kyrie S138



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

men.

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 Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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 55:1-9

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

- For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.

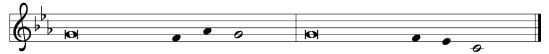
A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 63:1-8 Psalm Tone 9, 3 flats

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

All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

Tone:



Refrain:



- ¹ O God, you are my God; eager- ¹ ly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there ¹ is no water.
 - ²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place, that I might behold your power | and your glory.
 - ³ For your steadfast love is better than ¹ life itself; my lips shall ¹ give you praise.
 - ⁴So will I bless you as long | as I live and lift up my hands | in your name. R
 - ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- ¹ est of foods, and my mouth praises you with ¹ joyful lips,
 - ⁶ when I remember you up- | on my bed, and meditate on you in | the night watches.
 - ⁷ For you have ¹ been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I ¹ will rejoice.
 - 8 My whole being | clings to you; your right hand | holds me fast. R

R A reading from 1Corinthians.

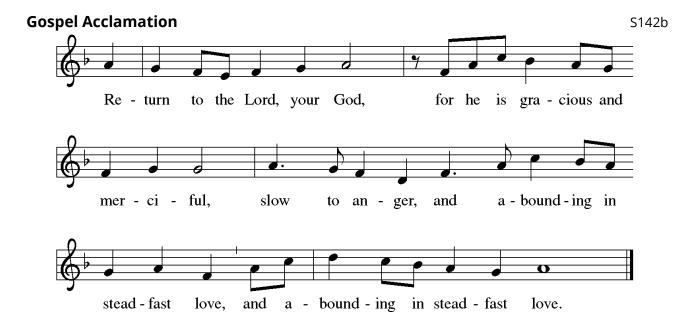
¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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 + resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(brief pause)

L We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. 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, in your mercy,

A **§** receive our prayer.

L We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion especially, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Terri Hummel, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Bill Pullin, Kathy Roderer, Larry Turpin, Steve Warner, the family of Julie

Woestehoff, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...].). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

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.

L God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended, especially Oscar Arnulfo Romero and Hans Nielsen Hauge. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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

"As the Deer, for Water Yearning"

By Claude Goudimel

Ainsi qu'on oit le cerf buire, pourchassant le frais des eaux, ainsi mon coeur qui soupire, Seigneur, après tes ruisseaux, va toujours criant, suivant le grand, le gran Dieu vivant; helas ronques, quand serrage que verrai de Dieu la face?

As the deer, for water yearning, seeks the stream's refreshing flow, so my heart and soul are burning, thirsting, Lord, your spirit free.

For the waters that revive I cry out to God alive:

When shall I bow in your presence and behold your face in reverence?

Tears have been my daily portion; "Where is God?" they say to me.
I recall my deep devotion, singing thanks with spirit free.
Why are you cast down, my soul? Will not God your grief console?
I will praise my living Savior, God, my help and hope forever.

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

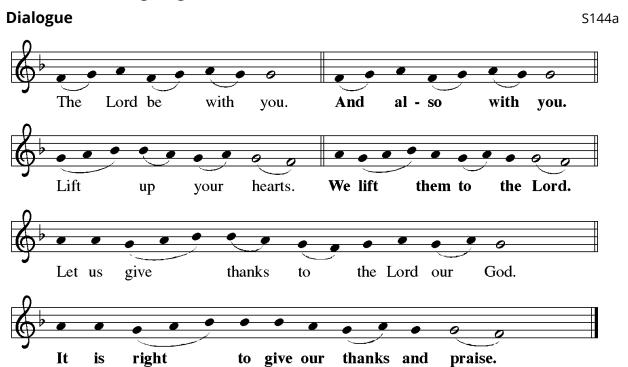


Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
- L Gracious Provider,
 you set your immense treasures among us,
 opening your heart to the world.
 As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
 deepen our commitment to sharing those
 treasures with others,
 through our Savior, Jesus Christ,
 now and always.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

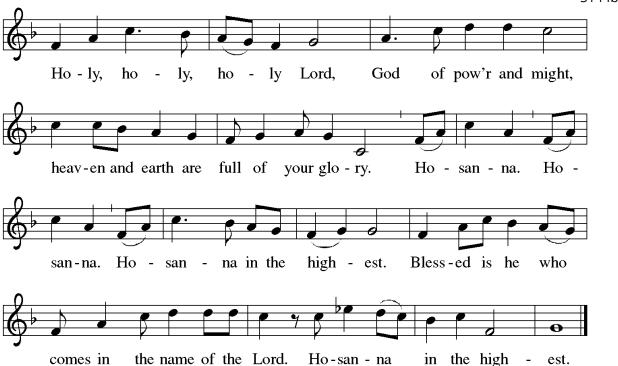


Preface The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:

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.

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:



Thanksgiving at the Table

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

A Amen.

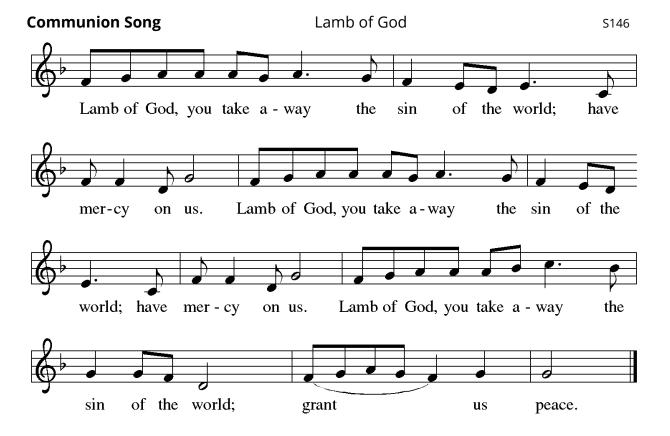
The Lord's Prayer

- 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 All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.
- 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."



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...

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

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

Blessing

P God our tender parent,God the crucified one,God the reconciling Spirit,

H bless you now and forever.
 ■

A B Amen.

This week's commemorations....

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 Monday, March 24, 2025

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

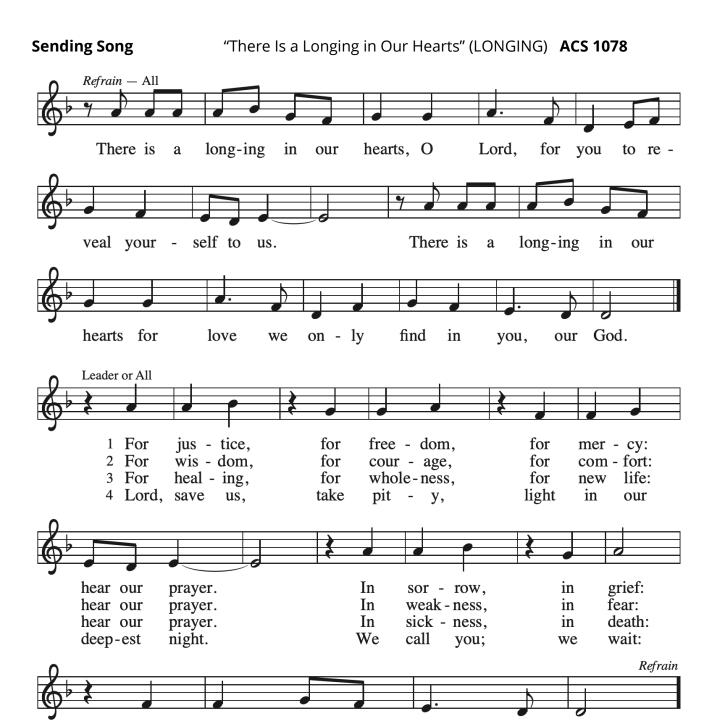
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 Saturday, March 29, 2025

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

From sundaysandseasons.com



God.

O

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

near;

hear

our

prayer,

A **B** Thanks be to God.

be

Postlude

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

Today's refreshments are hosted by the Ross Family.

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 MinisterAssisting Minister	
Lector	
Acolyte	Kit McCarthy
Organist	James Morehead
Music Director	James Morehead
Table Preparation	
Zoom Host	Jim McCarthy
Audio-Visual Technician	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Marlene Chatain, Nicolai Schousboe
Counter	Steve Warner

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

Tuesday, Mar. 25	Tai Chi Class	6:30 am
	Midweek Gathering on Zoom	2:00 pm
Wednesday, Mar. 26	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
	Lenten Soup Dinner	6:00 pm
	Lenten Holden Evening Prayers	7:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, Mar. 27	Tai Chi Class	6:30 am
	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Friday, Mar. 28	Tai-Chi Class	6:30 am
Sunday, Mar. 30	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Michael Kloster	Congregation President
Terri Simchak	
Dana Barron	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Laura McDaniel, Steve Warner	
Laurie Stivers	
James Morehead	Music Director
Christine Kraemer	Organist
Laurie Stivers	
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!