



## **The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist  
March 30, 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 psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!*

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

*✠ All may make the sign of the cross.*

### Prelude

Partita on "O God, Our Faithful God" BWV 767  
By J.S. Bach

### 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,  
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.*



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

### 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!**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - 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 God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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*

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## Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures.

**Joshua 5:9-12**

R A reading from Joshua.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

**A Thanks be to God!**

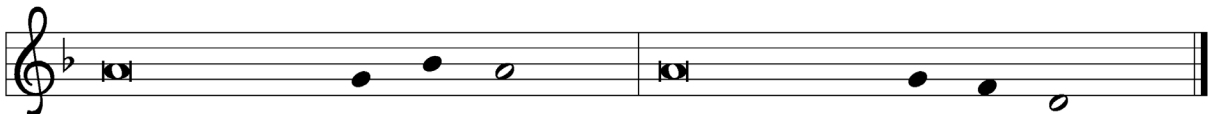
## Psalm 32

**Psalm Tone 9, 1 flat**

*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:**



Be glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions <sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is <sup>1</sup> put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup> putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup> is no guile! R**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- <sup>1</sup> ered away,  
because of my groaning <sup>1</sup> all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me <sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the <sup>1</sup> heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- <sup>1</sup> ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt <sup>1</sup> of my  
sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they <sup>1</sup> shall not reach them. R**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve <sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts <sup>1</sup> of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that <sup>1</sup> you should go;  
I will guide you <sup>1</sup> with my eye.**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no <sup>1</sup> understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will <sup>1</sup> not stay near you."
- <sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations <sup>1</sup> of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice <sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are <sup>1</sup> true of heart. R

## Reading from the New Testament

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

R A reading from 2 Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

<sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 Acclamation

S142b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

**A Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.



<sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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.*

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:  
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;  
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;  
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,  
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.  
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

## 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

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

*(brief pause)*

L God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

**A  receive our prayer.**

L God of service, fill the hearts of our leaders with courage. 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. Energize their spirits for the work ahead. God, your mercy,

**A receive our prayer.**

L God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

**A receive our prayer.**

L God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

**A receive our prayer.**

L God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion, especially, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Terri Hummel, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Bill Pullin, Kathy Roderer, Joseph Sloss, Larry Turpin, Steve Warner, the family of Julie Woestehoff, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. ). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

**A receive our prayer.**

L God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. 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 God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died, especially John Donne and Benedict the African. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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 ...*

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

**Offering Music**

"Lord Thee I Love with All My Heart"  
Setting by John Ferguson

Lord, thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray thee, ne'er from me depart,  
with tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share;  
yea, heav'n itself were void and bare  
if thou, Lord, were not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
my trust in thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought;  
thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and  
Lord,  
forsake me not! I trust thy word.

Yea, Lord, thine own rich bounty gave  
my body, soul, and all I have  
in this poor life of labor.  
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place  
may glorify thy lavish grace  
and help and serve my neighbor.  
Let no false doctrine me beguile;  
let Satan not my soul defile.  
Give strength and patience unto me  
to bear my cross and follow thee.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and  
Lord, in death thy comfort still afford.

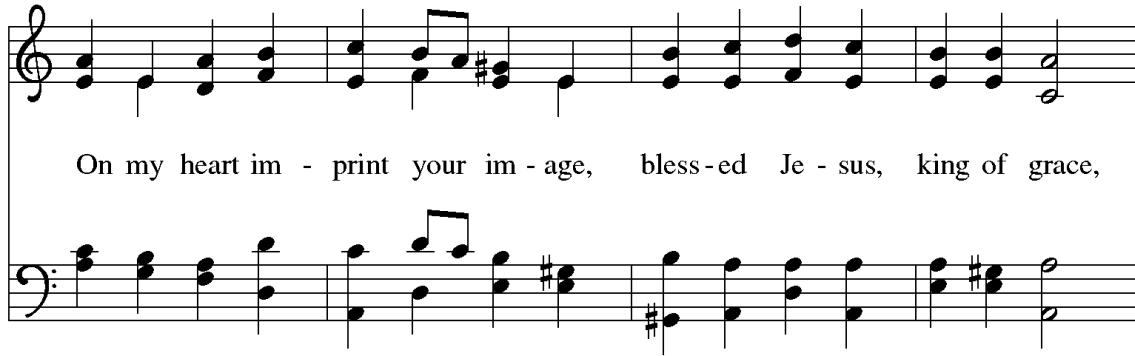
Lord, let at last thine angels come,  
to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home  
that I may die unfearing;  
and in its narrow chamber keep  
my body safe in peaceful sleep  
until thy reappearing.  
And then from death awaken me  
that these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, thy glorious face,  
my Savior and my fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer  
attend, and I will praise thee without end. I will  
praise thee; amen, amen!

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.

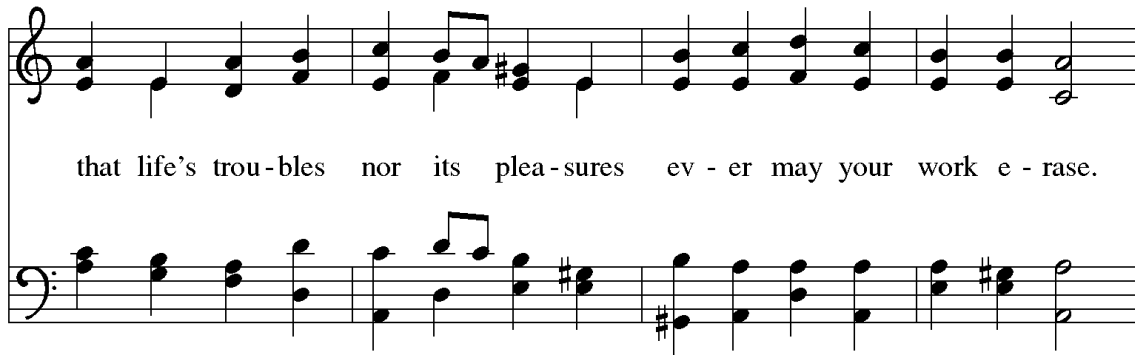
Presentation of the Gifts

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (DER AM KREUZ) ELW 811

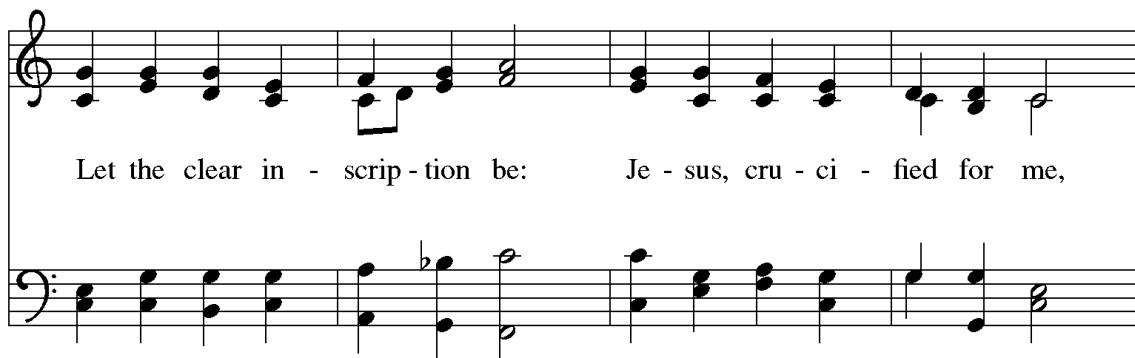
*The Assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward.*



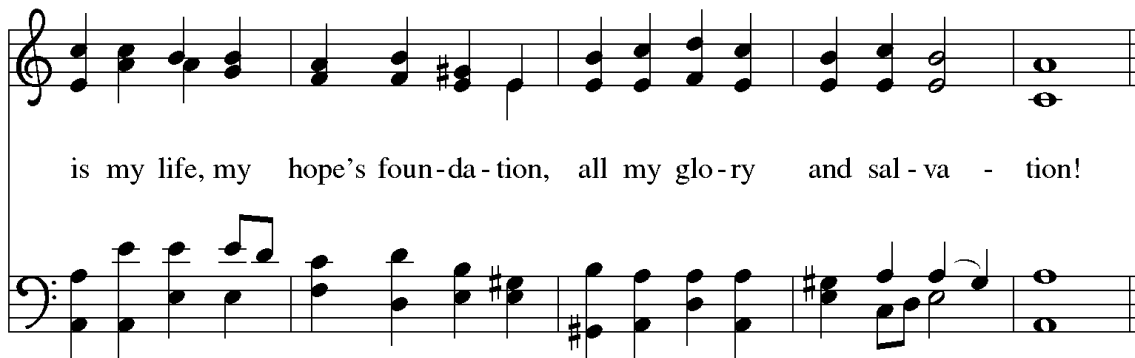
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

## Offering Prayer

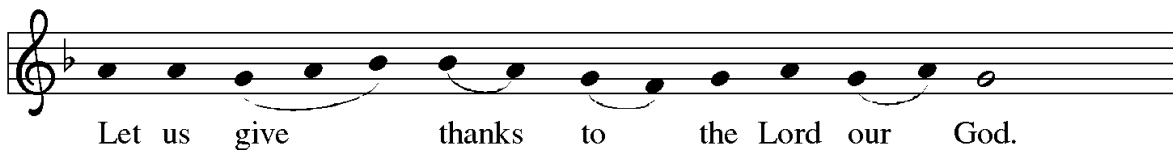
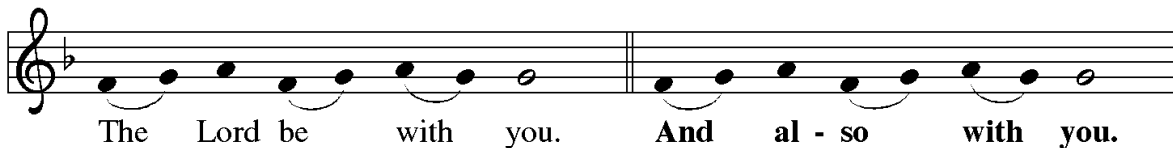
L Let us pray.  
L Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
now and always.

**A Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

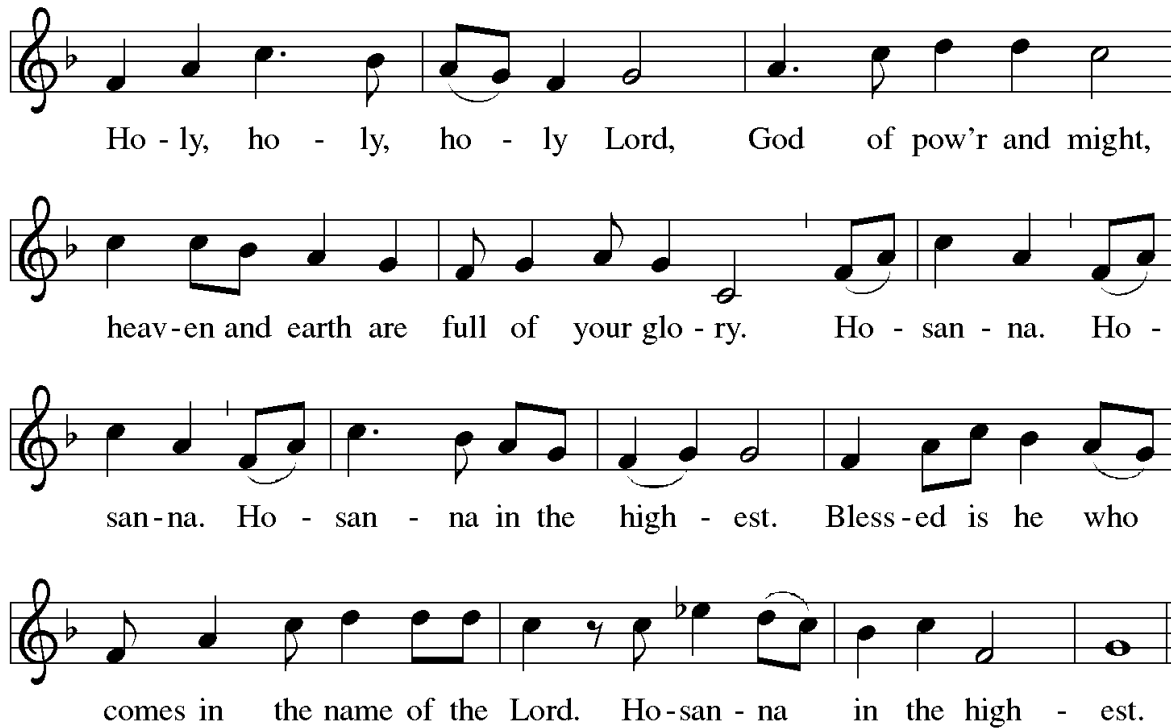
### Dialogue

S144a



**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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth  
and created us in your likeness.

You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care.  
All through our weary years and our silent tears,  
you did not abandon us to ourselves,  
but sought us out in love.

When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us.  
When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us.  
When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us.  
Through your holy prophets you called us to return  
to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love.

In the crowning act of love you gave your only Son,  
that whoever believes in him will have eternal life.  
For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world,  
but to save the world from sin.

Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off  
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.



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.

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

**A**



With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us;  
his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners,  
his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit  
upon us and upon this bread and wine,  
that we who share this meal  
may become a holy communion,  
the body of Christ in the world.

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**



## 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.

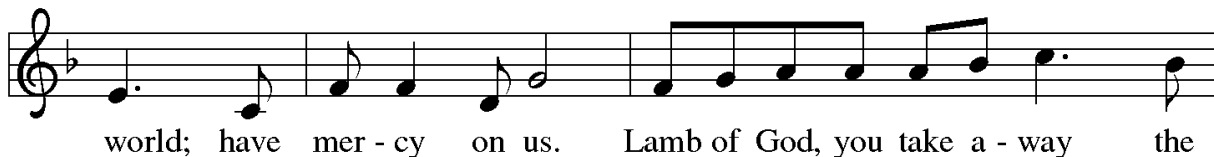
**A  We come to the table with open hearts.**

*The Assembly is seated.*

## Communion Song

Lamb of God

S146



## **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."*

Communion Hymn

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" (NEW BRITAIN) ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*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 ...*

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## **Blessing**

P God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✝ bless you now and forever.

**A**  **Amen.**

## **This week's commemorations...**

### **John Donne, poet, died 1631**

#### **Monday, March 31, 2025**

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

### **Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589**

#### **Friday, April 4, 2025**

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com)

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

**Dismissal**

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

A 🎤 **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“My Jesus Leadeth Me” Opus 122, No. 1  
By Johannes Brahms

*Please stay for a time of fellowship and announcements immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.  
Today's refreshments are hosted by the Sloss 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 Minister ..... The Rev. Mark Sloss
- Assisting Minister ..... Kit McCarthy
- Lector ..... Greg Hummel
- Acolyte ..... Elora Kloster
- Organist..... Christine Kraemer
- Music Director ..... James Morehead
- Table Preparation ..... Kit McCarthy
- Zoom Host ..... Jerry Larson
- Audio-Visual Technician ..... Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel
- Ushers ..... Marlene Chatain, Nicolai Schousboe
- Counter ..... Terri Simchak

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

Tuesday, Apr. 1	April Fools Day!	
	Tai Chi Class	6:30 am
	Midweek Gathering on Zoom	2:00 pm
Wednesday, Apr 2	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
	Lenten Soup Dinner	6:00 pm
	Lenten Holden Evening Prayers	7:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, Apr. 3	Tai Chi Class	6:30 am
	Daytime Quilters	9:00 am
	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Friday, Apr. 4	Tai-Chi Class	6:30 am
Saturday, Apr. 5	Last Indoor Farmers’ Market	8:00 am
	Bring food donations for NU Purple Pantry	
Sunday, Apr. 6	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 .....	Congregation Vice President
Dana Barron .....	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross .....	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Laura McDaniel, 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 worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**