



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

7:00 P.M.

Welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

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

We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.


We're glad God has called you here 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 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 can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements. 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 ...*

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

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

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

We gather in meditative silence. Please stand when directed.

Kyrie

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

A **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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

A **Amen.**

The Assembly is seated.

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

Please turn to the pew Bible - Page numbers are at the top of the page & in the center.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures *p.740 in the pew Bible*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

R A reading from Joel.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 51:1-17

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 organ will only accompany the first two verses and the refrain.

The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. The organ accompanies the first two verses and the remaining verses are sung unaccompanied.

All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

Tone:



Refrain:

Have mer - cy on me, O
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise. R

Reading from the New Testament

p.940 in the pew Bible

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

R A reading from Second Corinthians.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

Lenten Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

p.787 in the pew Bible.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Assembly is seated.

Sermon

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.

Hymn of the Day

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” (SOUTHWELL)

ELW 599

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
 from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Invitation to Lent

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

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

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and


works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin

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

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

P Most holy and merciful God,

A  **we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our past unfaithfulness,
the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

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

A Have mercy on us, O God.

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

A Have mercy on us, O God.

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

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**A Hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

Blessing of the Ashes

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

A Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

All those who wish may come forward to receive the sign of ashes. Masks are optional and please maintain a single file line on each side. You may kneel or stand to receive the ashes, then return to your seat.

During the imposition of ashes, the Assembly sings.

Imposition of Ashes

“All Things of Dust to Dust Return” (THIRD MODE MELODY)

ACS 920

1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross

The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new - born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

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

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

A 🗣️ **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

A bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our + Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

A Amen.

Prayers of the People

L Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

[A brief silence.]

L Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

A 🗣️ **Your mercy is great.**

L Inspiring God, we see your example of endless love for others and to care and serve them. We pray for our bishops Yehiel and Wayne, our pastor Mark, our president Kit, our council, our justice ministries and all who guide and instruct our communities. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter, especially Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Tom Couch, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Dennis Milbrandt, Elaine Nelson, Shirley Patrick, the family of Joseph Sloss, Ionie Smith, Steve Warner, Marina Yarnoff, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

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.

Here us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, especially for Martin Luther, Polycarp, Elizabeth Fedde, and all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

A Amen.

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

A  **And also with you.**

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

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

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

Offering Music

"Have Mercy on Me" by Thomas Tomkins

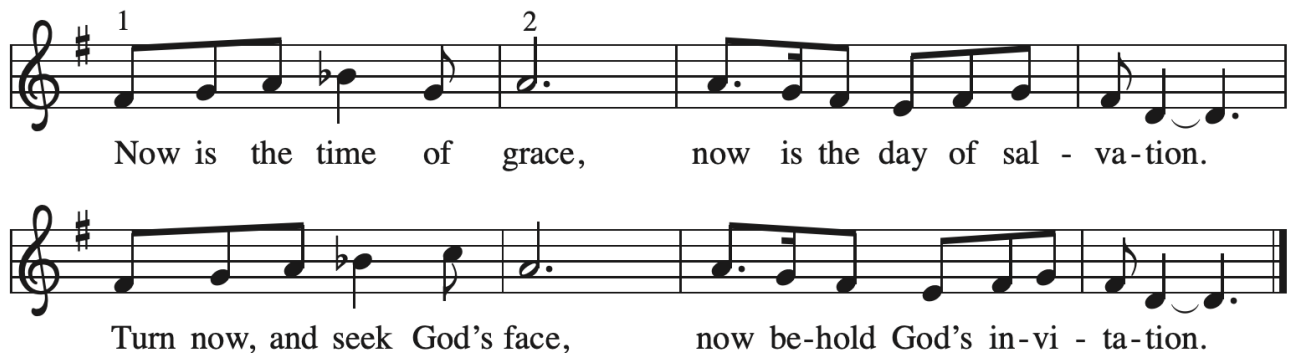
Have mercy upon me, O Lord,
After thy great goodness;
According to the multitude of thy mercies.

Presentation of the Gifts

"Now Is the Time of Grace" (TIME OF GRACE)

ACS 918

The Assembly sings through the Refrain once, then Choir sings the Verse, Assembly sings Refrain again.



Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va-tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta-tion.

Verse — Choir

1 This is the fast that God would choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to let the captives go free,
and to break the yoke of oppression. **Refrain**

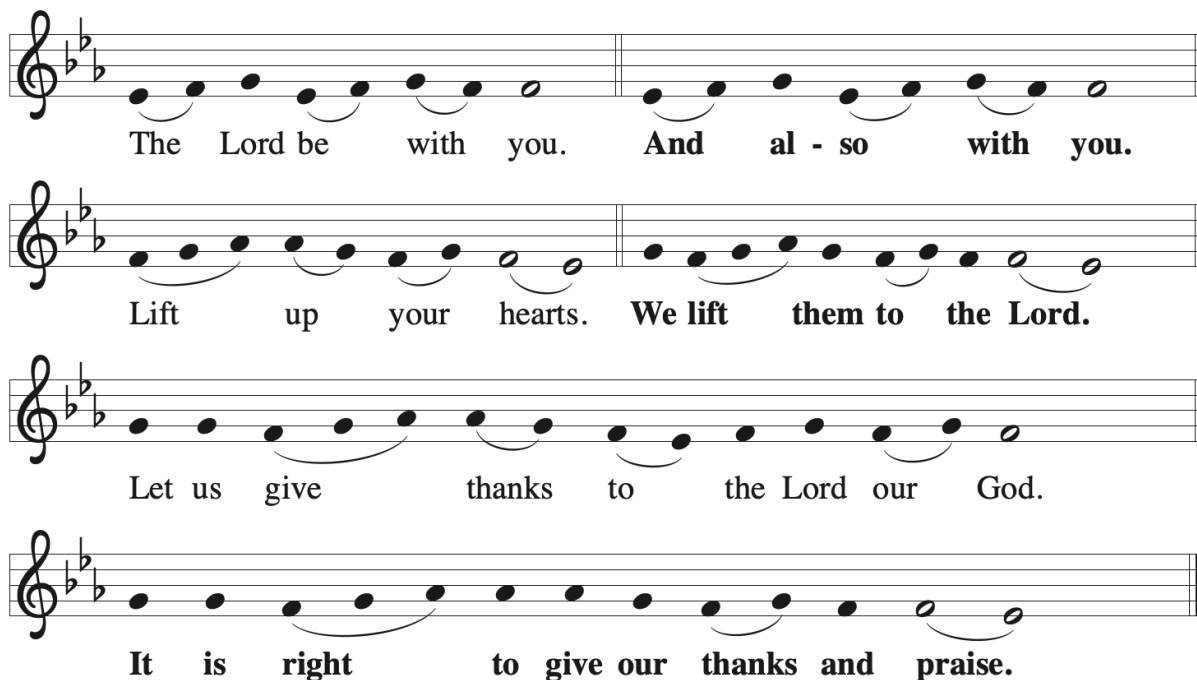
Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
L O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface *(The Presiding Minister continues with the prayer:)*

- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. There are some ties and slurs used throughout the piece.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P Blessed are you, O God,
creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world
that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

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

**A Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit
in this meal,
and make us one
in this community of faith
and with your people
throughout the world.

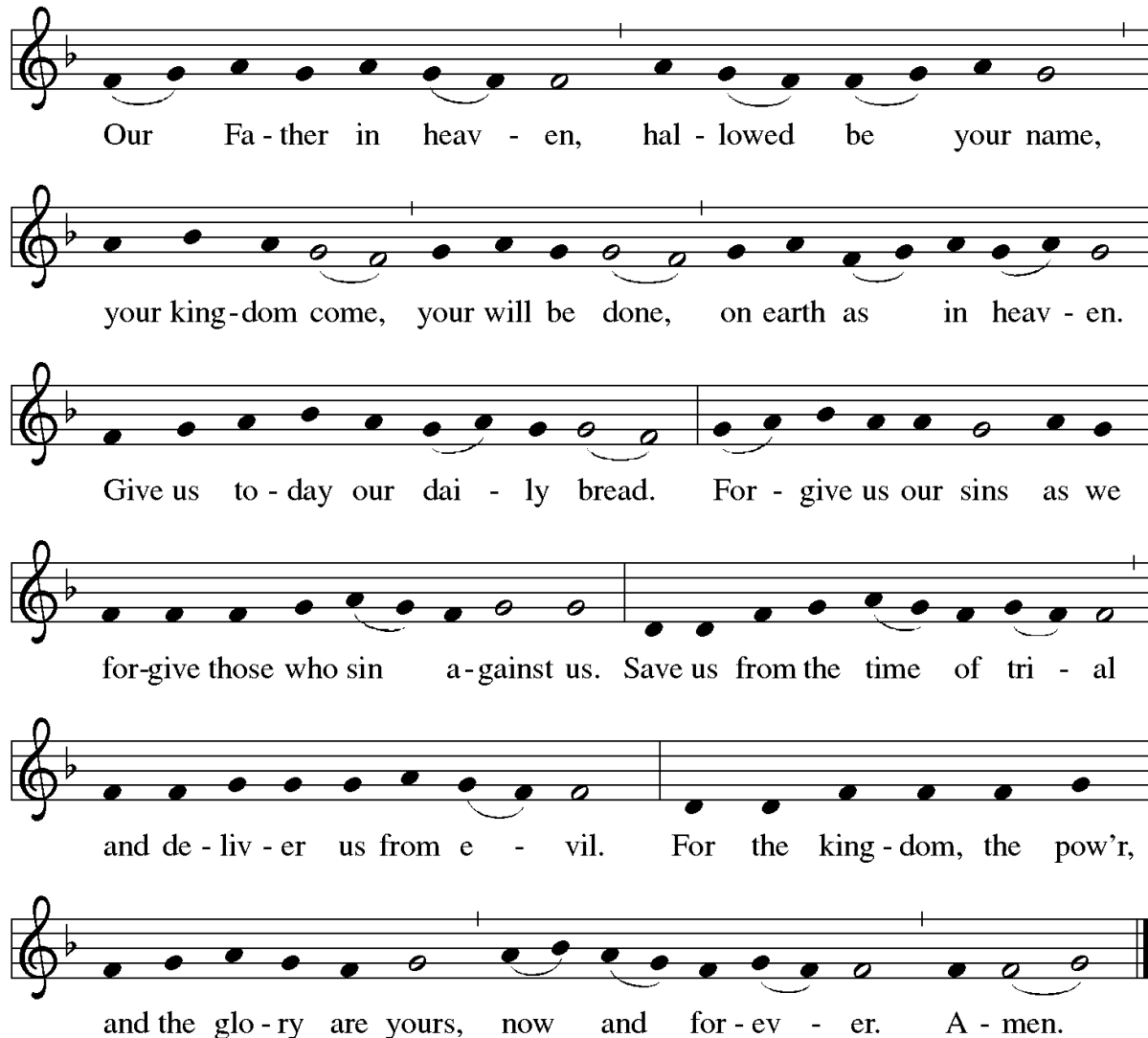
Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life,
Word made flesh,
Power of the Most High,
now and forever.

A Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

A



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

L Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

A May we be filled with your presence.

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."

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.

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, 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 can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen."

Communion Hymn

"Come, Ye Disconsolate" (CONSOLATOR)

ELW 607

1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;
 2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
 3 Here see the Bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing

come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
 hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;
 forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.

Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
 here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,
 Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing

earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
 "Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
 earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

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 God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

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

Blessing

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✝ bless you now and always.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Believe the good news.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly departs in silence.

Upcoming Commemorations

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Monday, February 23, 2026

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Serving in worship this evening...

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Presiding Minister | The Rev. Mark Sloss |
| Assisting Minister | Anne Heider |
| Lector | Greg Hummel |
| Acolyte..... | Elora Kloster, Kit McCarthy |
| Organist..... | Christine Kraemer |
| Music Director..... | James Morehead |
| Table Preparation..... | Barbara Huffman |
| Zoom Host..... | Bert Mount |
| Audio-Visual Technician..... | Kevin McDaniel |
| Ushers..... | Nicolai Schousboe |

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Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| The Rev. Mark Sloss | Pastor |
| Kit McCarthy | Congregation President |
| Michael Kloster..... | Congregation Vice President |
| Jim Miller | Congregation Secretary |
| Susan Ross..... | Congregation Treasurer |
| Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Laura McDaniel, Jared Peck, Terri Simchak..... | 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!**