

Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Worship Service February 1, 2026

Welcome! We're glad that you are here, and we hope this service of worship will be a blessing to you. Welcome Packets are available in the entryway

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements for our service include: Pre-packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

Restrooms are located through the entryway and to the left (signs are posted).



Assisted Listening: The Hearing Loop system in place for the hearing impaired will allow hearing aids equipped with a telecoil to serve as wireless loudspeakers, delivering sound right inside the ear. By activating a switch on your hearing aid, the sound is transmitted directly to your ears.

MISSION: To inspire members to grow in loving devotion to Jesus Christ, caring concern for one another, welcoming outreach, and loving service to our neighbors.

VISION STATEMENT: Immanuel Lutheran Church will be known for welcoming hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
With One Voice Holy Communion Setting 5
February 1, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Bells

Sharing Time

Passing the Peace

Candle Lighting

Transition Song: “Praise The Lord”

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord, Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

**(Please stand as you are able)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: You call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us

the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.


GATHERING HYMN “Bind Us Together” WOV 748 Blue Hymnal

GREETING


P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

*(Please be seated)

HYMN OF PRAISE



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



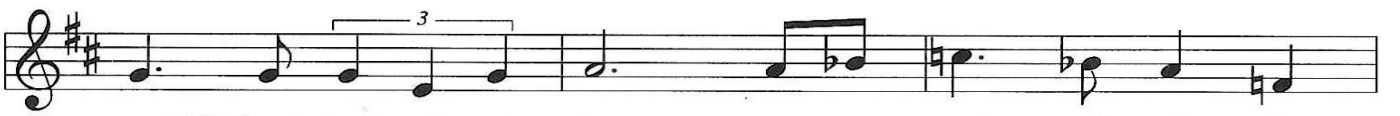
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



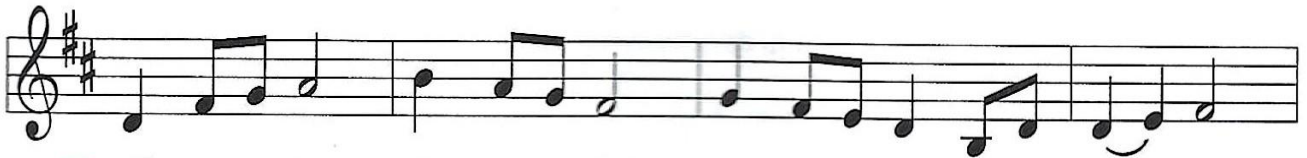
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



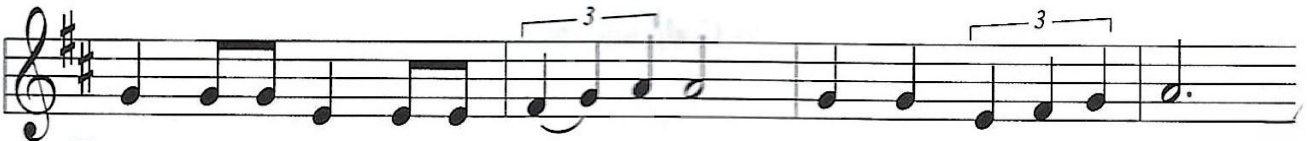
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I
II For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of Day

P: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!"⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?"⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

A: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 15 (We sing the Psalm)



¹ LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,

who speak the truth | from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;

they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom,²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**(Please Stand if you are able)*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter, vss. 1 through 12.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON: Pastor John Brown

**(Please stand as you are able)*

HYMN OF THE DAY : “Blest Are They” WOV 764 Blue Hymnal

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

C: APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**(Please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response following each petition:

A: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

**(Please stand if you are able)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Offerings

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A: Let us pray.

A: God of majesty,

C: No eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

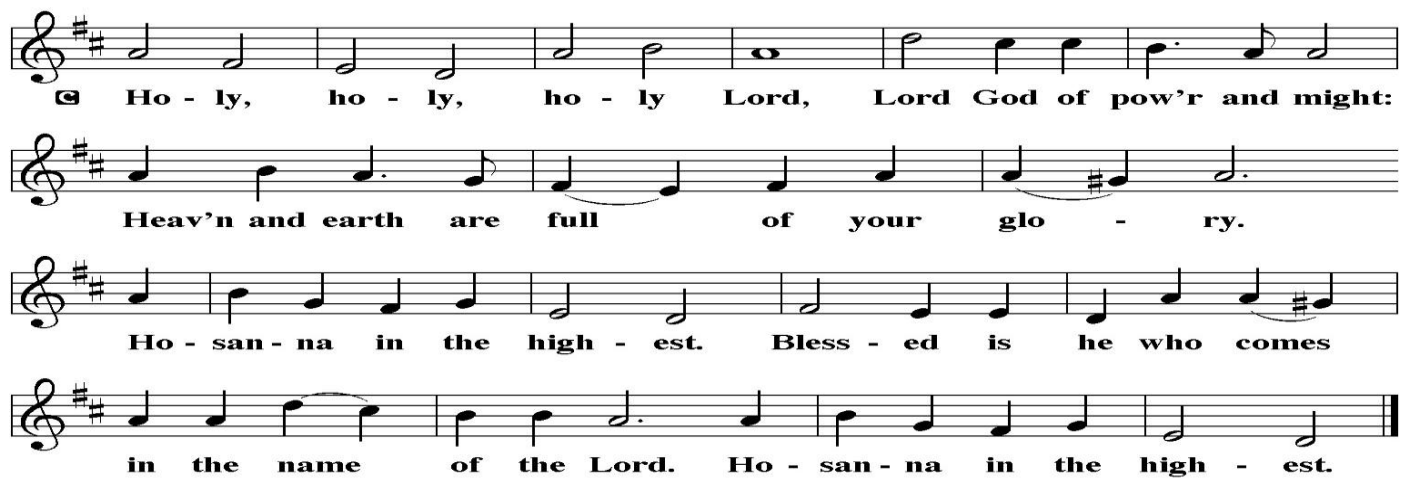
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life he lived among us, to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

CONSECRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

P: : Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 this 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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by 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.

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements include this morning: Pre packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

LAMB OF GOD

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: "I Am the Bread of Life" WOV 702 Blue Hymnal

** (Please stand if you are able)*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank - ful hearts and voles raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord rejoice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Rise Up, O Saints of God!” LBW 383 Green Hymnal

PRAYER

A: Let us pray together Immanuel's Opening Doors prayer.

C: Dear Lord, we thank and praise you for your everlasting love and enduring mercy. Continue to send your holy spirit: to bless us, to watch over us and to guide us in all that we do so that we grow in: our love for you, our love for each other and our love for those in our community.

Grant us the courage to be bold in opening doors by inviting and welcoming others in our community to God's church. Give us strength: to trust in you and to have faith and hope in your plans for God's church. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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The congregation and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. We encourage you to continue your tithing to Immanuel. If you have a key, you may stop by & leave them in Cindi's mailbox or slip them under her door. You may also mail them to Immanuel at 726 Fuller Ave. Big Rapids, MI. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in your offerings.

~Stewardship Committee

Please join us for fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following Worship today! (on 3rd Sunday of month, cake will be served for all birthdays celebrated in the month.)

Serving in Sunday Worship Service

Musician: Janet Mallett

Altar Duty: Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Cousineau

Presiding Minister: Pastor John Brown

Worship Assistant: Nedra Neumann

Cantor: Vicky Scott

Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey

Usher: Steve Neumann

Reader: Carol Wilson

Sound Technician: David Scott

A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott



Birthdays this week – None to report

Belated Anniversary – None to report

Altar Flowers For the Honor and Glory of God.

Readings for February 8th (Fifth Epiphany):

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Psalms 112:1-9[10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12[13-16]

Matthew 5:13-20

Upcoming In Person meetings

FOTA Concert 'MSU Jazz' **Sun. February 1st at 4:00pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. February 3rd at 10:30 am**

Hitchcock Movie "Saboteur" **Thur. February 5th at 2:00pm**

FOTA Concert (Youngman & Old men) **Fri. February 6th at 7:00pm**



Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –

Feb 1: February is National Heart Health Month. One in every three deaths in the United States is from heart disease and stroke, which is equal to 2,200 each day. The Department of Health and Human Services has a plan to prevent one million heart attacks in the United States by encouraging people to get at least 30 minutes of exercise daily, take aspirin daily (if the doctor advises it), get treatment for high blood pressure or high cholesterol, get assistance to STOP SMOKING, eat food high in fresh vegetables, fruits, low salt and trans fats, and follow your doctor's instructions.



Saturday, February 14th, 2026

Next month's Movie Matinee is 'Random Harvest' starring Greer Garson & Ronald Coleman (1942)



Shepherd's Hooks & Needles now meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The next session is **Tues. Feb. 17th at Noon.**

Community Events

Manna Pantry:

January: canned luncheon (meat or chicken)

February: pancake mix and syrup

Project Starburst:

Soups - any kind

Cereal

Grade School

Kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, soap, underwear, sweatpants (neutral colors), socks. Sizes for children to fifth grade. Also hats, mittens, scarves, sweatshirts

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 1st, 2026