Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service September 20th, 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.

Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting #10
September 20th, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE
BELLS
SHARING TIME
PASSING THE PEACE
CANDLE LIGHTING (While We Sing the Transition Song)

Transition Song: "God Is Here!" ELW #526

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share;
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

LEE WOLKEN - Temple Talk
Special Announcement
Member Recognition

**(Please stand as you are able)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

P: Compassionate God,

C: We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

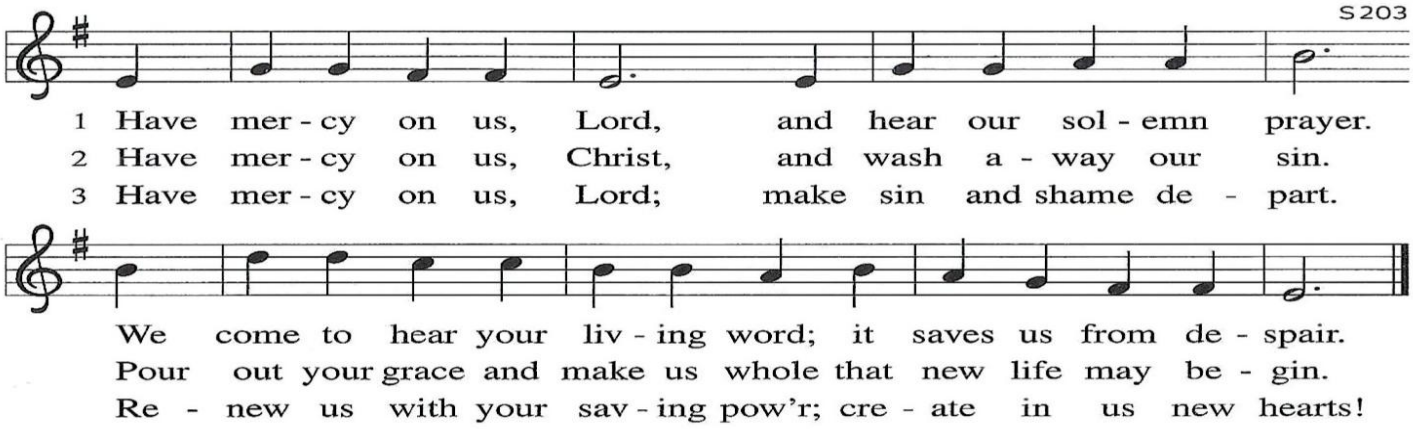
P: Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

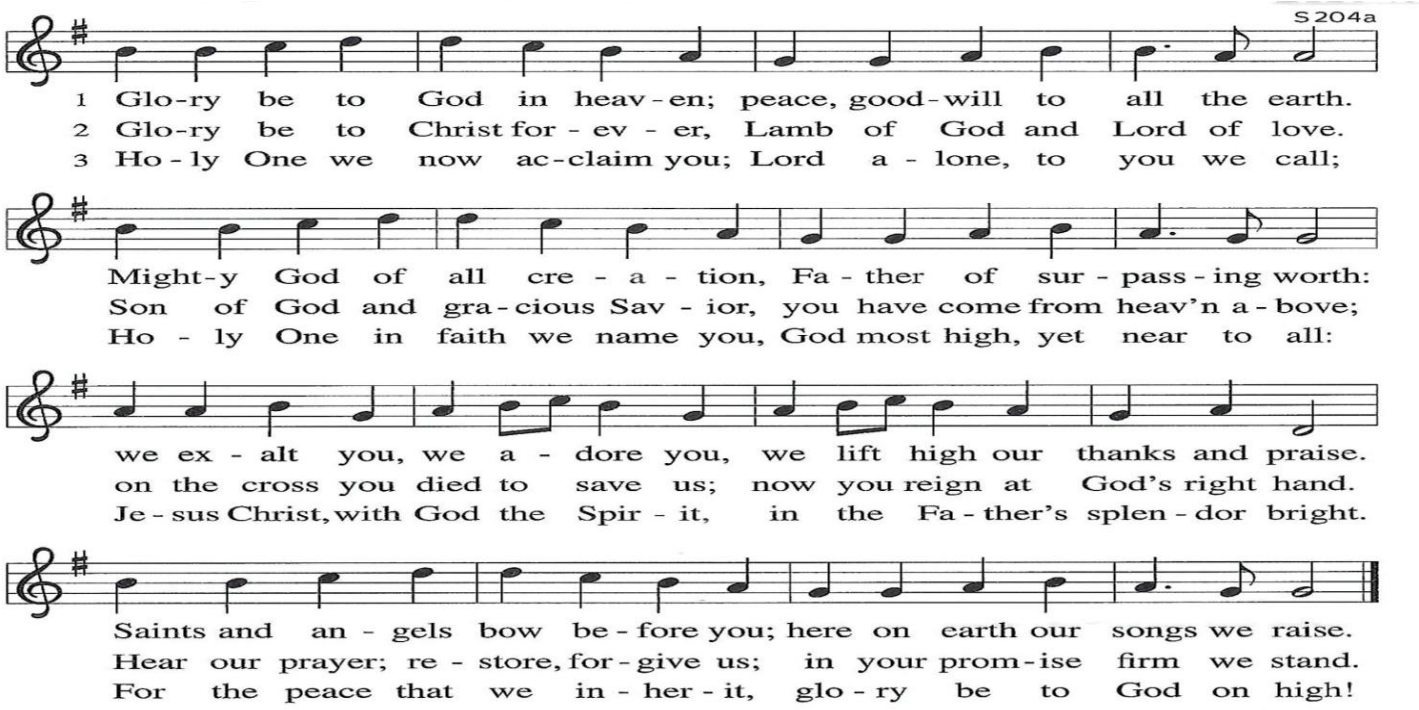
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW 685 Red Hymnal verses 1-4

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



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

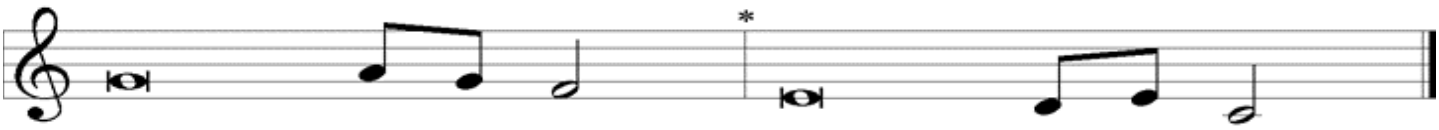
P: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

**(Please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

10 When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways,
God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and
he did not do it.
4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the LORD and
said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled
to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to
anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 3 And now, O LORD,
please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the LORD said,
"Is it right for you to be angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the
city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what
would become of the city. 6 The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over
Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very
happy about the bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that
attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind,
and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might
die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for
you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." 10 Then
the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which
you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not
be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and
twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many
animals?"

A: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8 (We sing the Psalm)

1 I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
2 Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.
3 Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!

There is no end | to your greatness.
4 One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.
5 I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.
6 They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.
7 They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
8 The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

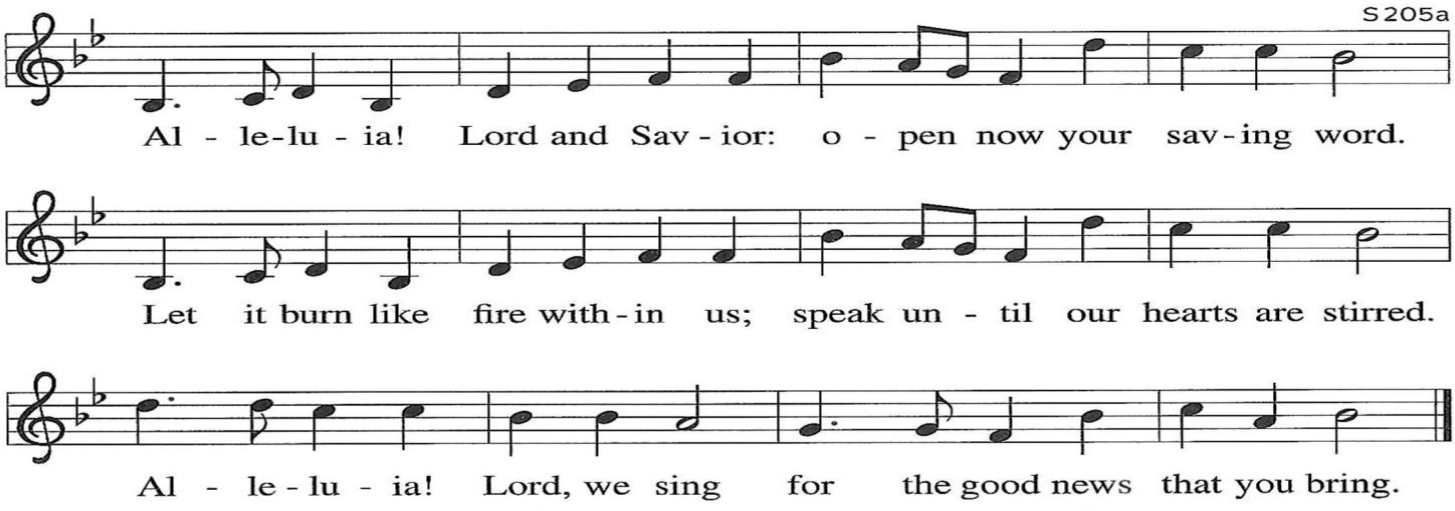
SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means
fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 23 I am hard pressed between the
two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, 24 but to remain in the
flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and
continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that, by my presence again
with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. 27 Only, live your life in a
manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent
and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side
with one mind for the faith of the gospel 28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you.
For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's
doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of
suffering for him as well, 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and
now hear that I still have.

A: The word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 20 .
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<u>GOSPEL</u>: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out
early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing with the laborers for a
denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3] When he went out about nine o'clock,
he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, [4] and he said to them, 'You also go into the
vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. [5] When he went out again about
noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. [6] And about five o'clock he went out and
found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all
day?' [7] They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into
the vineyard.' [8] When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the
laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' [9] When
those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. [10] Now when the first
came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a
denarius. [11] And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, [12] saying,
'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the
burden of the day and the scorching heat.' [13] But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am
doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14] Take what belongs to you
and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. [15] Am I not allowed to do what
I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' [16] So the last
will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**(Please be seated)*

SERMON: Pastor Devon Herrell

**(Please stand as you are able)*

<u>HYMN OF THE DAY</u> : "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" ELW 708 Red Hymnal

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

C: <u>APOSTLES' CREED</u>
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)*

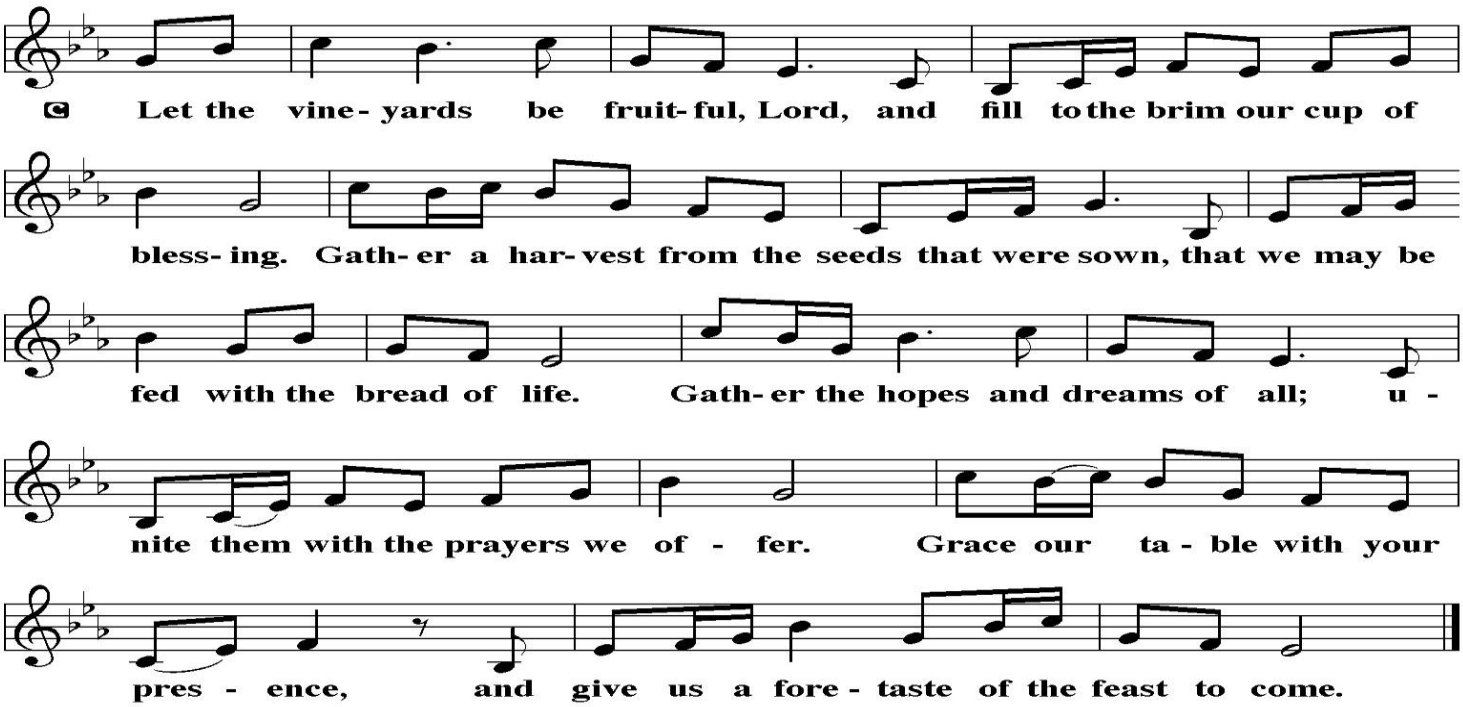
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response following each petition:

A: Hear us, O God,
C: Your mercy is great.

**(Please stand as you are able)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS
****LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL****



A: Let us pray.
God of creation,
C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

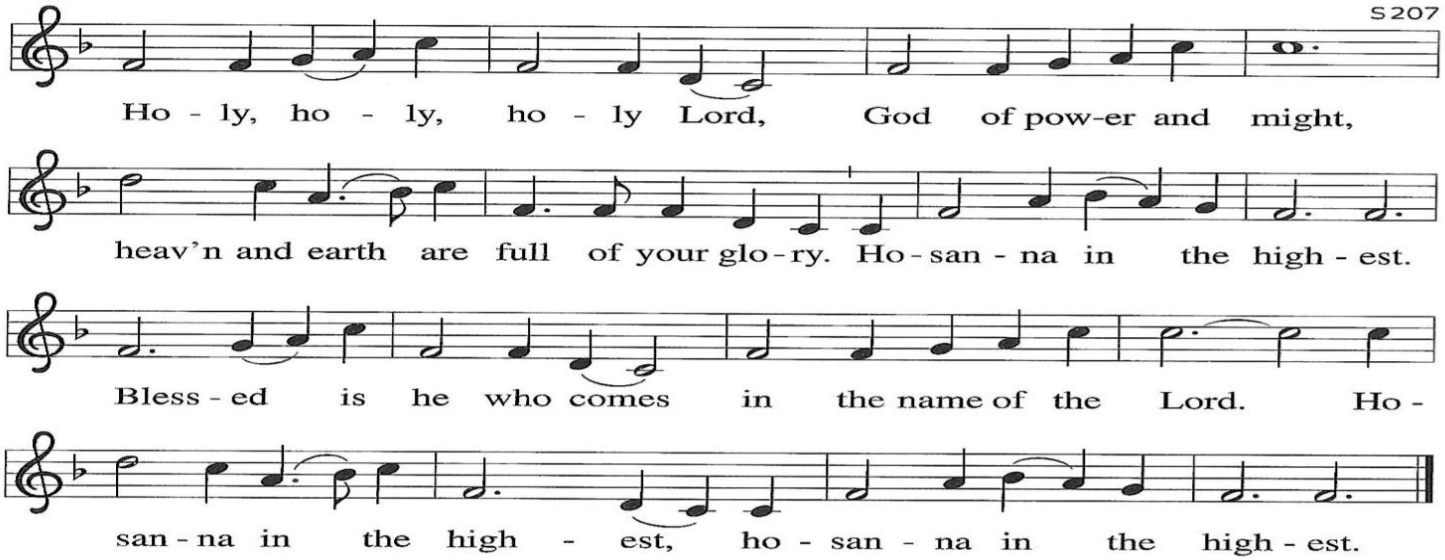
MEAL

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

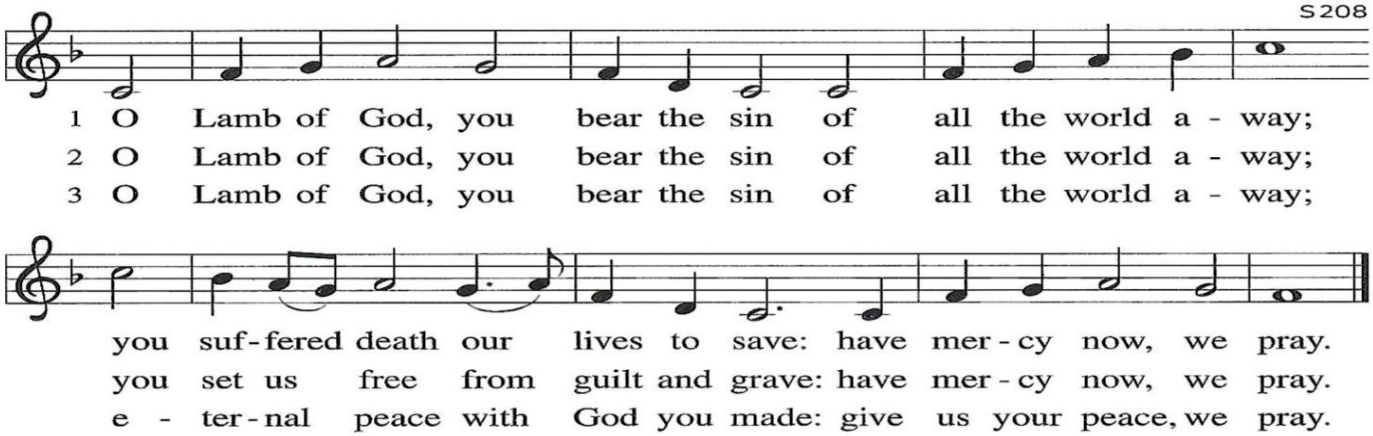
P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. 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.

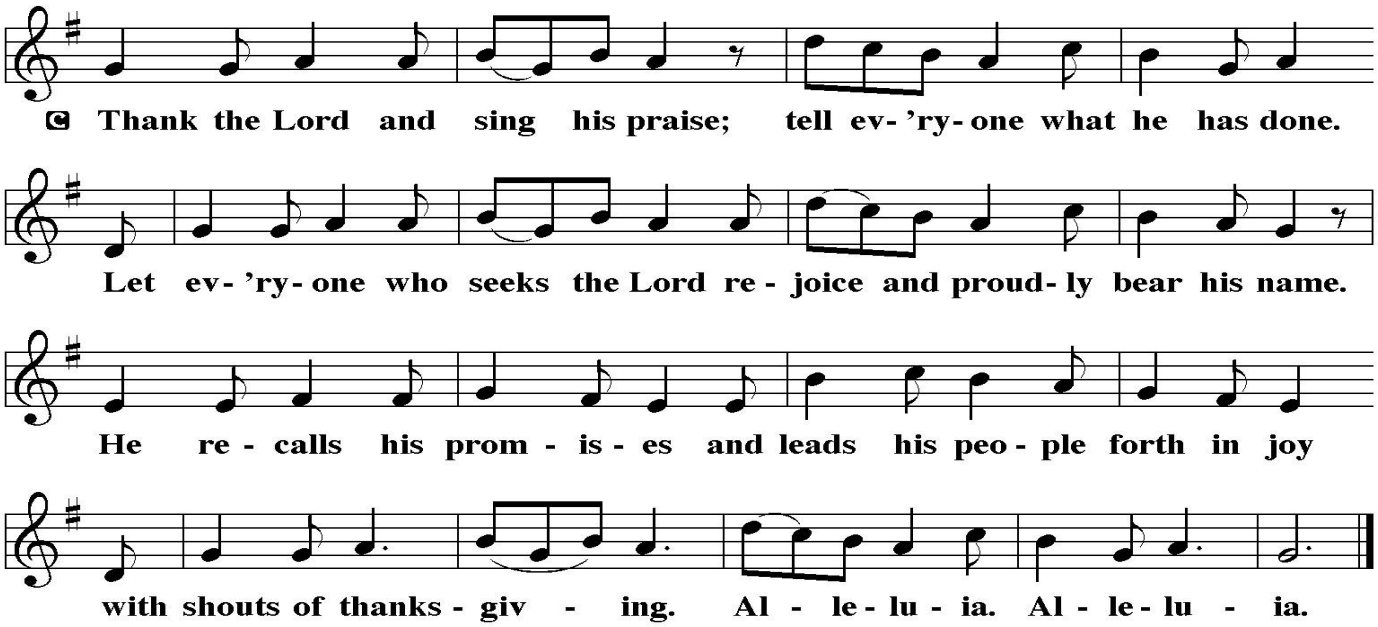
LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMN: "Abide with Me" ELW 629 Red Hymnal

**(Pease 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 the Lord and Sing His Praise"



A: Let us pray.
Sustaining God,
With this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen

SENDING HYMN: "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" ELW 669 Red Hymnal, verses 1-4

PRAYER

A: Let us pray together Immanuel's Congregational 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 Immanuel, and by supporting and serving those who are struggling. Give us strength: To trust in you and to have faith and hope in your plans for your church. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
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 Devon Herrell
Worship Assistant: Linda Obermier
Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey
Cantor: Vicky Scott
Reader: Michelle Kauffold
Usher: Phil Keating
Sound Technician: David Scott
A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott

Birthdays this week – Bette Jo Brown (9/21)

Happy Anniversary – Jim & Phyllis Lindsey (9/26)

Altar Flowers – by Linda Greene, in memory of Denny Greene

Readings for September 27th:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	**Philippians 2:1-3**
Psalm 25:1-9	**Matthew 21:23-32**

Upcoming In Person meetings:

MLT Meeting **Sun September 20th during Fellowship hour**
Tuba Bach **Sun September 20th at 4:00pm**
Office Staff Meeting **Tues September 22nd at 10:30am**
Hymn Planning **Tues September 22nd at 2:00pm**
Tuba Bach **Sat September 26th at 4:00pm**

Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –

Sept 20: September is Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month. Atrial Fibrillation is a type of irregular heartbeat. Normally your heartbeat is 80-100 per minute. In atrial fibrillation the rate can go as high as 175 beats per minute. Atrial fibrillation is called when two of the upper chambers of the heart beat unpredictably and sometimes rapidly which can cause blood to collect in the

heart and form a clot which can travel to the brain and cause a stroke. Atrial fibrillation is more common in people 65 years and older and with people who have high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes. Diagnosing and treating atrial fibrillation prevents 65-80% of strokes!

Shepherd's Hooks & Needles now meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The next session is **Tues October 20th at Noon.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Manna Pantry:

SEPTEMBER	Canned corn	Mushroom soup
OCTOBER	Canned carrots	Sweet potatoes

Project Starburst:

Grade School
Kleenex, glue sticks, markers, colored pencils, pencils, sanitizer, head phones, wet wipes, erasers, and post-it notes. Also hats, gloves, mittens and sweat pants in unisex colors to fifth grade sizes.

Stewardship Appeal – Lee Wolken

Don't forget: You will be receiving in the mail in late September a stewardship letter and the estimate for giving document. **On October 11** we invite you to bring the Estimate of Giving document with you to worship and join us in offering them to God as our expression of thanksgiving and joy for God's generosity to us.

This week's MLT meeting will cover some very important topics for our church. Please try to attend today, after the service, during the fellowship hour!