Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service September 27th, 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.

Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting #10
September 27th, 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.

**(Please stand as you are able)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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.

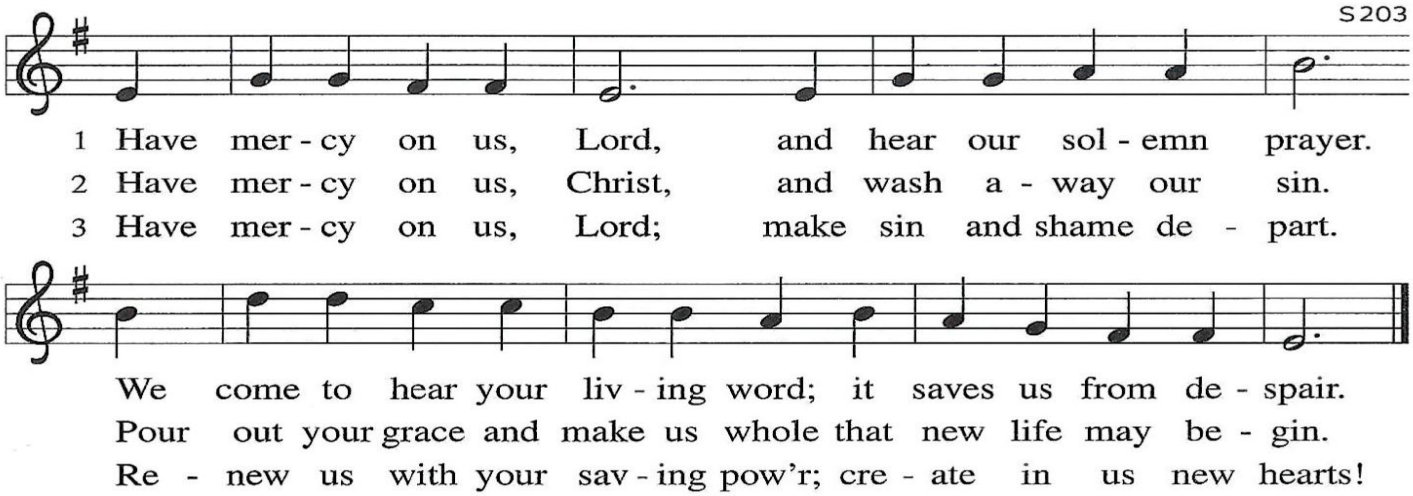
P: Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✢ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

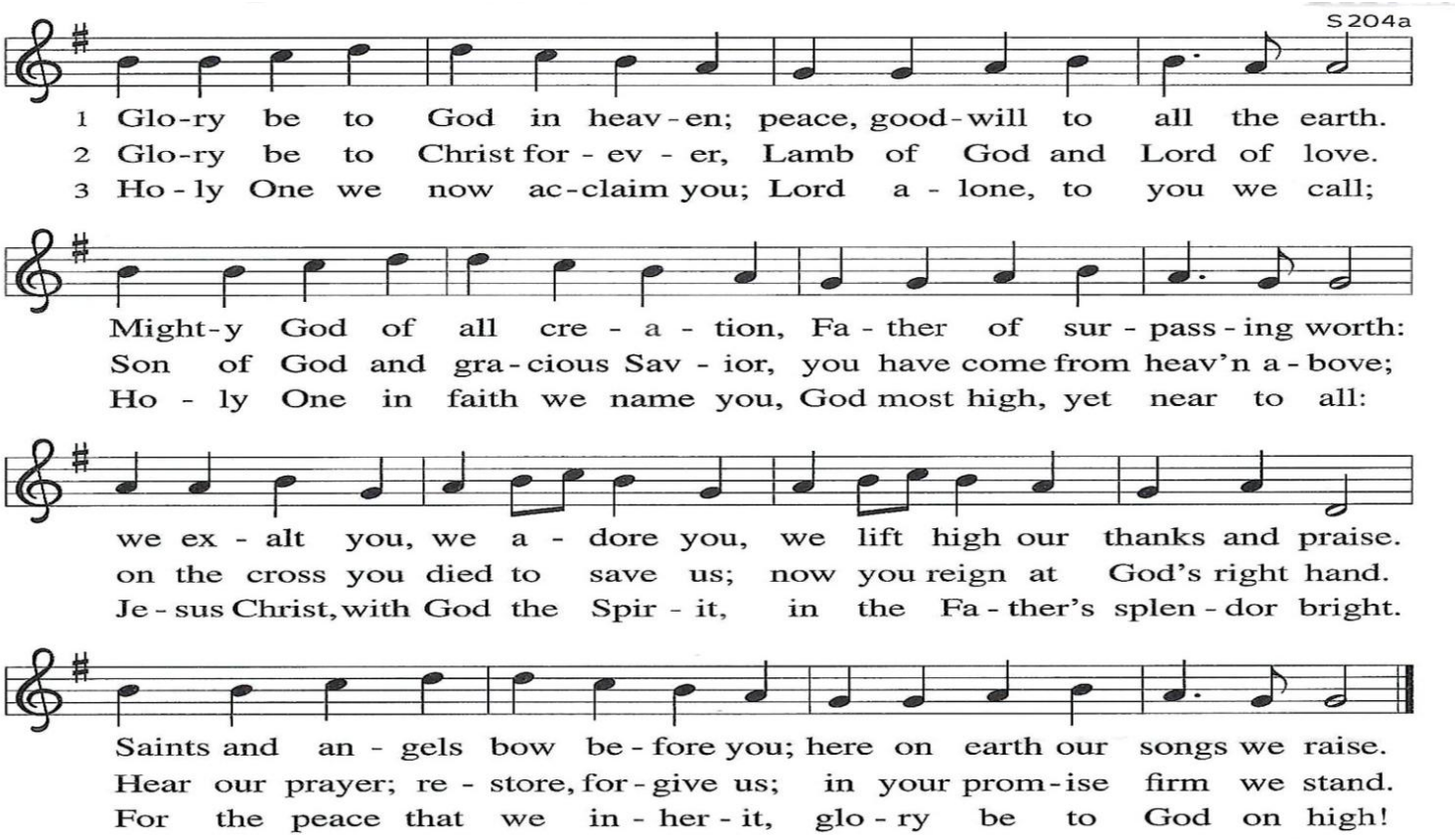
GATHERING HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" ELW 705 Red Hymnal

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



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



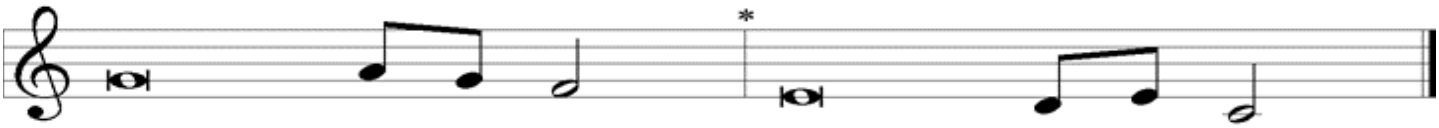
P: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

**(Please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 What do you mean by repeating this proverb
concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth
are set on edge"? 3 As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in
Israel. 4 Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is
mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.
25 Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way
unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26 When the righteous turn away from their
righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have
committed, they shall die. 27 Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they
have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28 Because they
considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall
surely live; they shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair."
O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?30 Therefore I will
judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent
and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31 Cast away from
you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new
heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the
death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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



PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9 (We sing the Psalm)

1 To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
2 My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
3 Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
4 Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.
5 Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
6 Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,

for they are from | everlasting.
7 Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
8 You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
9 You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

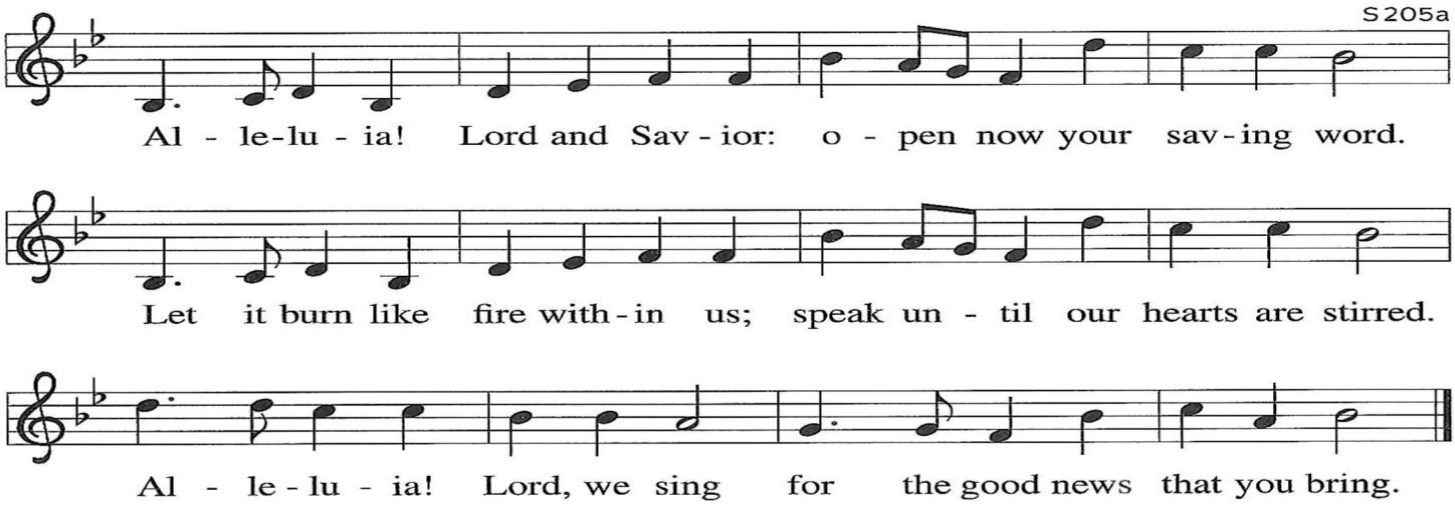
SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

1 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,6 who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,10 so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21 .
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<u>GOSPEL</u>: Matthew 21:23-32

[23] When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to
him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who
gave you this authority?" [24] Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell
me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. [25] Did the
baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one
another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe
him?' [26] But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a
prophet." [27] So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I
tell you by what authority I am doing these things.[28] "What do you think? A man had two
sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29] He answered,
'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. [30] The father went to the second and
said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. [31] Which of the two did the will
of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors
and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. [32] For John came to you
in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the
prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and
believe him."

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

**(Please be seated)*

SERMON: *"The Reluctant Servant"* Pastor Kristine Hahn

**(Please stand as you are able)*

<u>HYMN OF THE DAY</u> : "O Master, Let Me Walk with You" ELW 818 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)*

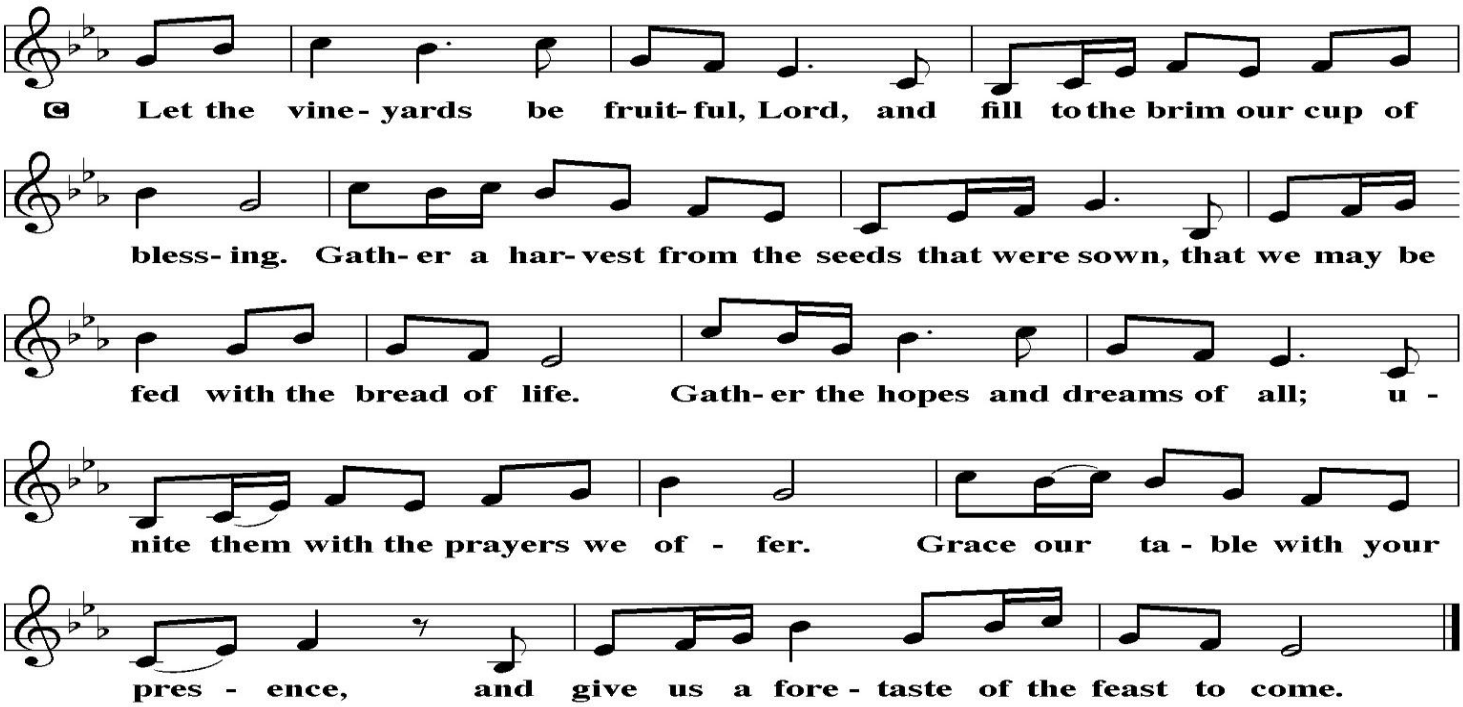
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

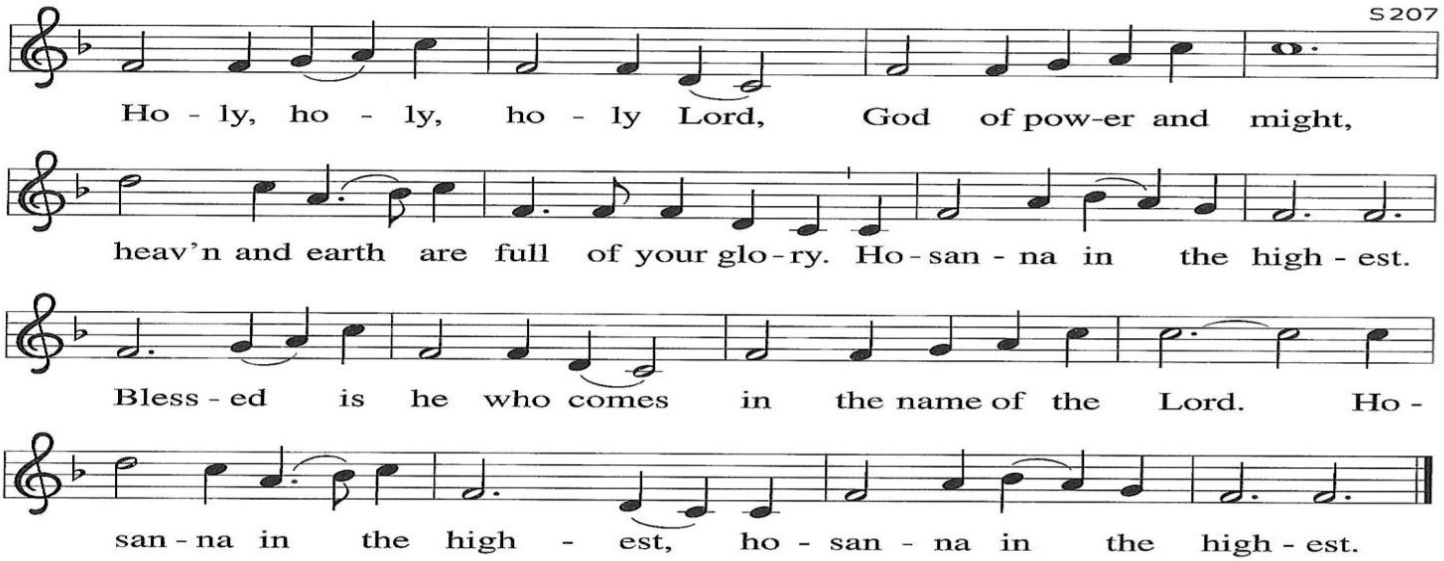
MEAL

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

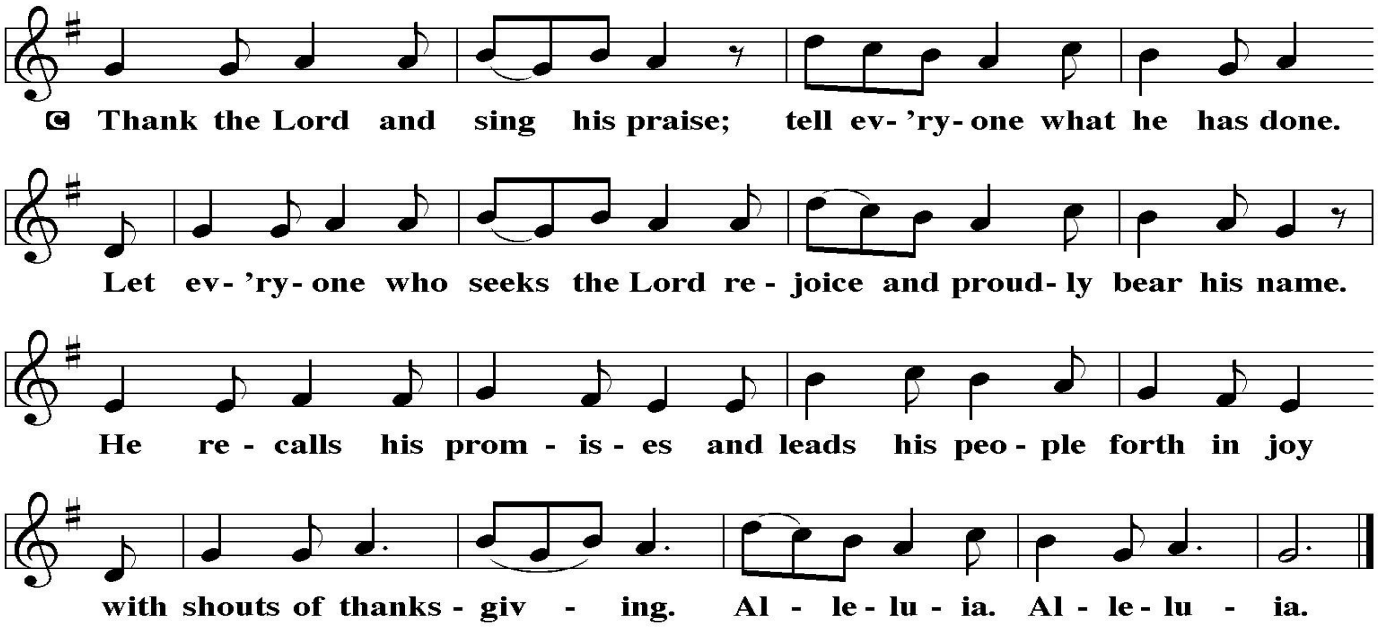
COMMUNION HYMN: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" ELW 817 Red Hymnal

***(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: "Gather Us In" ELW 532 Red Hymnal

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 Kristine Hahn
Worship Assistant: Nedra Neumann
Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey
Cantor: Vicky Scott
Reader: Linda Obermier
Usher: Linda Obermier
Sound Technician: David Scott
A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott

Birthdays this week – None to report

Happy Anniversary – None to report

Altar Flowers – by Linda Greene, to the glory of God.

Readings for October 4th:

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Upcoming In Person meetings:

MLT Meeting **today** after the service **(10:45am)**
Tuba Bach **Sun September 27th at 4:00pm**
Office Staff Meeting **Tues September 29th at 10:30am**
Tuba Bach **Sat October 3rd at 7:00pm**

Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –

Sept 27: September is Prostatic Cancer Awareness Month. Prostate Cancer is cancer that occurs in a man's prostate, a small walnut-shaped bland that produces seminal fluid that nourishes and transports sperm. Some symptoms include difficult urination, blood in the urine, pelvic area pain and because the tumor may progress slowly, some doctors prefer waiting for surgery. Other options include surgery, radiation, hormone therapy, chemotherapy or a combination.

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

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.

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND WE WILL BE HAVING A MORTGAGE BURNING / A.I.M. (ADVANCE IMMANUEL MINISTRIES) EVENT AT OUR NEWLY DEBT-FREE CHURCH!

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A THANKSGIVING / CELEBRATION POTLUCK AFTER THE SERVICE, WITH MEATS PROVIDED – ALL OTHER DISHES ARE WELCOME.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY!!