

Season after Pentecost

September 27, 2026



Immanuel
Lutheran Church

Sharing in God's justice and kindness

Good morning and welcome to Immanuel

We are honored that you have chosen to spend Sunday morning with us at Immanuel. We pray that you will be renewed by this worship and reminded that God loves you just as you are. We will be sharing Holy Communion this morning. Regardless of your background, denomination, or where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome to receive this meal of grace and love.

Helpful Hints for Worship

- Our worship service is recorded. If you prefer not to be included, please speak to an usher. Communion is not recorded.
- If you have trouble hearing, please note the hearing loop has been installed in the nave. The testing of the loop shows the best location to sit is in the center and the first six pews.
- Prior to the start of worship, please silence cellular phones.

Reminder: the parking lots doors will be locked 15 minutes after worship begins.

Please use the QR code if you would like to make a gift to Immanuel online.



Joanne Groman-Stewart	Pastor
John F. Beeg	Pastor Emeritus
Ali Santos	Director of Music
Warren Jensen	Sexton
Nancy Mooney	Congregational President

All music for today's worship reprinted by permission under OneLicense #A-714459.

Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23581.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Photo Credit: Karsten Wurth on unsplash.com

- Gathering -

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

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.

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.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn 772

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Way

Greeting

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

And also with you.

We Praise You for the Life That Stirs (first tune)



1 We praise you for the life that stirs when spring-time warms the
 2 We praise you for the sum - mer sun, for rip'n - ing grain and
 3 We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, for har - vest yield from
 4 We sing your praise through win - ter's night, when earth in fro - zen
 5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spir - it,



sleep - ing earth; but most, we praise the
 length - ened days; but most, we praise you
 spring - time seed; up - on our hearts your
 si - lence lies, for prom - ise of re -
 with the thron of saints and an - gels,



grace that lures our slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth,
 for the Son whose light brings heal - ing in his rays,
 grace be - stow till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed,
 turn - ing light, for life in Christ that nev - er dies,
 joined as one in grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song,



our slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 whose light brings heal - ing in his rays.
 till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 for life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 in grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

Music: THE GLORIOUS HILL, Stephen P. Folkemer

Text and music © 1990, 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission in advance or reporting usage under a valid copyright license.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Welcome

- *Word* -

Entering Sunday School Milestone

Children's Message

First Reading *Exodus 17:1-7*

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9



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.**

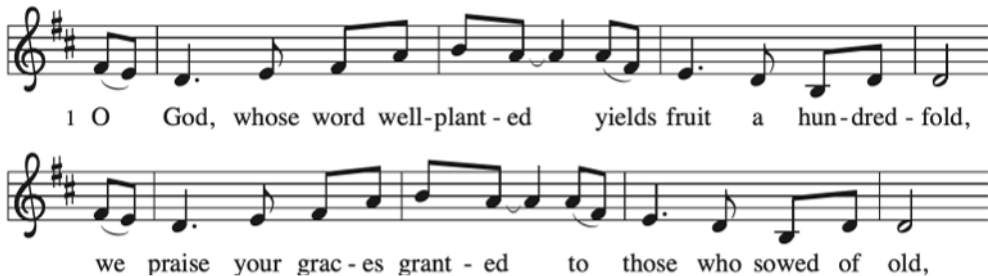
⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,

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.

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted





Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952
Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

Gospel *Matthew 21:23-32*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *O Christ, Surround Me*



- 1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
- 2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
- 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
- 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
- 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Apostles' Creed

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 Intercession

Each petition ends:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

- Meal -

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Anthem

Create in Me a Clean Heart - arr. Paul Christiansen

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

Offertory Prayer

God of creation,

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.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

Verses: Cantor or choir

1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and
scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts
tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain: Assembly

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Sanctus

Music: SHADY GROVE, Appalachian traditional

Text © 1990, 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion

All are invited to share in this meal of grace and love and may come forward at the direction of the usher, then return by way of the side aisles. The bread is gluten-free. Wine is shared by pouring chalice. Pre-filled cups of grape juice are available. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please inform the usher.

Hymn 818 *O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

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

Amen.

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.

Amen.

- Sending -

Blessing

Sending Hymn 776 *What God Ordains Is Good Indeed*

Dismissal

Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.

We go to live out God's justice and kindness. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Food that Warms Our Hearts - TODAY at 11 a.m.

What recipe is close to your heart, that brings back special memories and a smile when you make it? Share that dish, along with the memory, at our September One Time Only! We will gather after worship on September today for a potluck of heart-warming food. You are also invited to share the recipe and the reason why it's special for you. Cold dishes can be stored in the fridge, and hot dishes can stay in the oven during worship. Join the fun and warm your heart.

Men's Breakfast Starts October 13, 8:15 AM

Immanuel's MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST begins Tuesday, October 13, 8:15 AM at Mama Lor's on Ridge Road in Union Hill. It is a time for informal fellowship and conversation. The agenda is simple – eat breakfast; no planned program; fellowship and conversation; and, a weekly question/topic raised for a brief discussion by all. We order off the menu and pay for ourselves. All men of Immanuel are invited and encouraged to come. If you have any questions, please speak with Paul Shoop.

September Adult Class - A Study of the Epistle of James

As Lutherans, we often give the epistle of James a bad rap, thinking we're following the advice of Martin Luther himself. Yet, Luther did not want James removed from the New Testament nor from Sunday worship readings, e.g. the lectionary. Join the adult Sunday school immediately after worship, as we begin a study on the background and rich teachings of this short letter. James' words are very relevant to today's world! Come and learn how James' ideas should influence our daily thoughts and approaches to community.

Sunday School for Kids Age 4 through 6th Grade

Sunday School has begun! You won't want to miss all the fun! We meet in the Community Wing opposite the sanctuary after worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Come learn about all the ways God loves us!

Choirs Have Begun!

We welcome new members to both choirs! Come make a joyful noise with us! For more information, reach out to Ali in person or via email at music@immanuelwebster.org

Bible Study Wednesdays at Panera!

Bible Study has resumed for the fall! Come have a wonderful morning of fun, fellowship, and learning as we enter the book of Acts! Join us at 9 am at Panera Bread on Holt Road. Bring your bible, your questions, your curiosity, and plan to learn, share, and laugh!