

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church

THE PARABLE OF THE



Wheat and Tares

July 19, 2026
9 a.m. Service Bulletin
Ordinary Time
Year A Lectionary

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!



WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and we seek to make your visit faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to left or sign the Pew Register (red notebook) as it is passed down your pew.

WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS. Our name, Immanuel, means “God with us.” Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors.

Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women’s Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children’s Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share “God with us” with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God’s Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

HOSPITALITY

RESTROOMS - Our Handicap Accessible Restroom is located just outside the door by the pulpit.

We also have restrooms downstairs nearby.

CHILD CARE - We have a room for parents that offers a private, quick, and convenient space for caring for children. The room is located just outside of the sanctuary through the door beside the pulpit.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the tares, Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord’s table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

✝ **THE WELCOME** Sue Kaufman, Council Member of the Day

✝ **THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**
Hendricks Bowen and Graham Bowen, Acolytes

✚ **THE PRELUDE** *May the Spirit of Christ* Marty Haugen, Setting by Janet Linker
SONG OF ST. PATRICK Dr. Judi Neufeld, Guest Organist

✚ **THE OPENING ACCLAMATION** The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor Please be seated or kneel as we offer God our confession.

Confession is a time to clear our conscience, acknowledge shortcomings, and receive God's assurance of forgiveness before hearing the Word and sharing Holy Communion.

✚ **THE CONFESSION**

Please be seated or kneel.

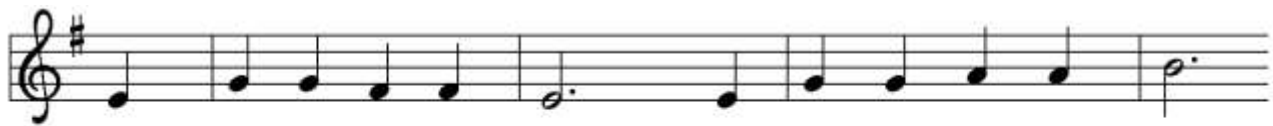
Pastor Most Merciful God,

ALL We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. AMEN.

✚ **THE KYRIE**

Lord, Have Mercy

ELW Setting 10



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

✝ THE ABSOLUTION (Declaration of Forgiveness)

Pastor God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that the Love of Jesus, and the Kingdom of God may spread in the world through you.

ALL AMEN.

✝ THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Please stand, as you are able.

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

ALL And also with you.

✝ THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest

ELW Setting 2



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor Faithful God, most merciful judge,
ALL you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture
us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✝ THE LESSON Romans 8:12-25

Summary

Lector *Paul reveals in today's lesson that true spirituality occurs when we experience the reality of the Spirit. This enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and provides unseen hope that God will liberate all of creation from the bondage of death and decay. Now, the lesson from the book of Romans in the New Testament.*

Lector ¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lector Here ends the lesson. For the word given to us,
ALL Thanks be to God.

✚ THE PSALM 139:1-12, 23-24

Congregational Refrain



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Cantor Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

ALL Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

Cantor ¹ Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ² You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

ALL Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

Cantor ³ Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁴ You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

ALL Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

Cantor ⁶ Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁷ If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

ALL Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

Cantor ⁸ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

⁹ Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.

¹⁰ If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," ¹¹ Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

ALL Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

Cantor ²² Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.

²³ Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

ALL Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

✝ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting #10

Please stand, as you are able.



✝ THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 13th chapter.

ALL **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor ²⁴ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL **Praise to you, O Christ.**

✝ THE SERMON

The Rev. Chris Christopher

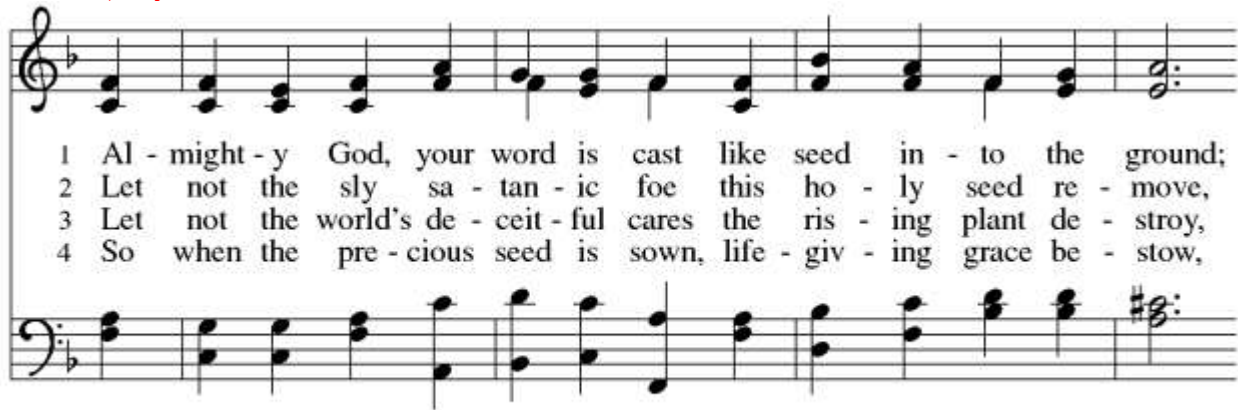
Please be seated.

✝ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

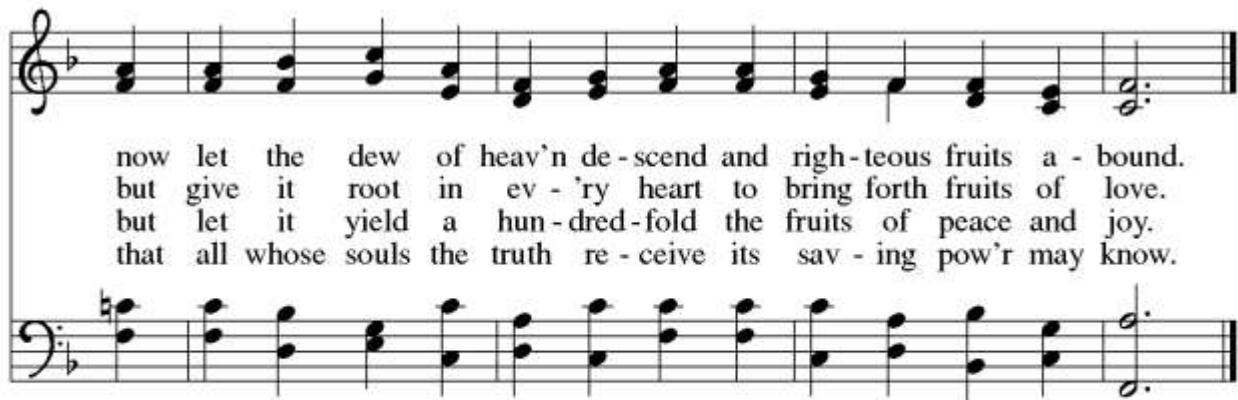
Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

ELW # 516

Please stand, as you are able.



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

✝ THE APOSTLES' CREED

AM = Assisting Minister

AM Together, let us profess our faith.

ALL 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.

✝ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

AM Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the world, and ALL of creation.

Silence for preparation

AM God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. God of grace,

ALL **Hear our prayer.**

AM God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace,

ALL **Hear our prayer.**

AM God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace,

ALL **Hear our prayer.**

AM Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

ALL **AMEN.**

✝ THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

AM The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL And also with you.

AM Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshipping with us on-line and on the radio and say together,

ALL the peace of the Lord be with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

Please be seated.

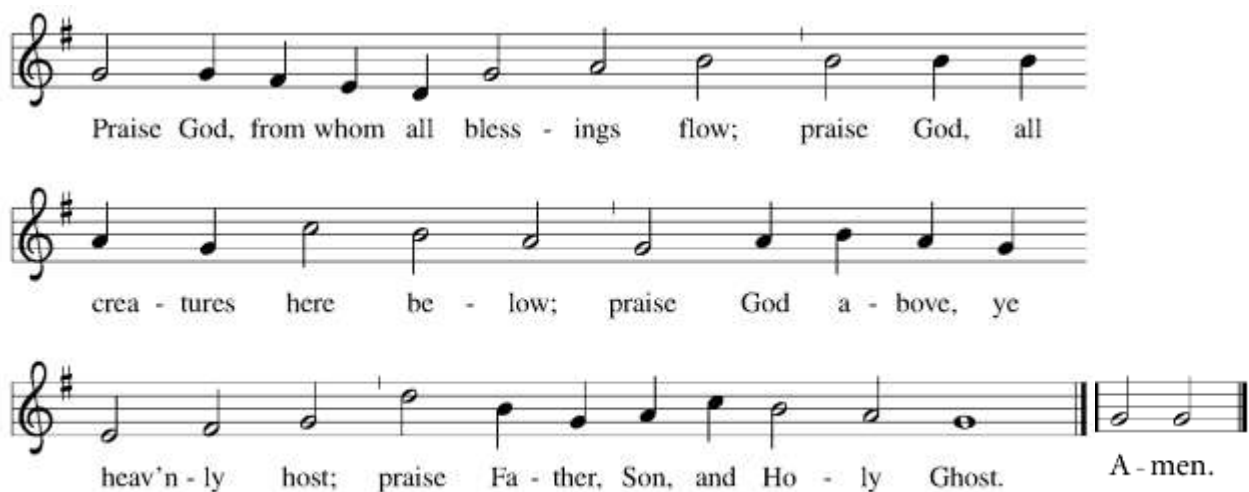


*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website www.ilcgreenwood.com and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

✝ THE OFFERTORY MEDITATION *Be Ye Glad* Michael Kelly Blanchard
Dr. Chuck Neufeld, Soloist

✝ THE DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Please stand, as you are able.



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

✝ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Loving God,
ALL we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. AMEN.

✝ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you.
ALL And also with you.
Pastor Lift up your hearts.
ALL We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.

✝ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
ALL 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.

✝ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The silver cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.

✠ THE AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1: The vocal line begins with a whole note rest, followed by a half note G4, and then a half note A4. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G3, a half note F3, and then a half note E3. The lyrics are "O Lamb of God, you take a - way the".

System 2: The vocal line continues with a half note Bb4, a half note C5, and then a half note Bb4. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note D4, a half note C4, and then a half note Bb3. The lyrics are "sins of the world; have mer - cy on us,".

System 3: The vocal line continues with a half note A4, a half note G4, and then a half note F4. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note E3, a half note D3, and then a half note C3. The lyrics are "Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.".

from *Land of Rest Acclamations* by Richard Proul

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✙ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in
God's Grace!

ALL AMEN!

✙ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Compassionate God,

ALL through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of
your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love
freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the
Spirit nourishing us now and forever. AMEN.

✙ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✙ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

ALL AMEN.

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Council Member of the Day	Sue Kaufman
Lector / Assisting Minister	Sue Kaufman
Guest Organist	Dr. Judi Neufeld
Cantor	Dr. Chuck Neufeld
Acolytes	Hendricks Bowen and Graham Bowen
Crucifer	Parker Kinard
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufman, Kim Leemhuis, and Bo Bowman
Sound and Video Technician(s)	George Beveridge and Ray Lorick
Altar Guild	Sue Kaufman
Ushers	Elaine Rosenbaum and David Rosenbaum
Counter	John Kinard
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

Altar flowers today are given by Ann Coker to the Glory of God and in celebration of
Tracy Lopez-Oropeza's and Nikki Lopez's July birthdays.

✝ THE CLOSING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW # 631



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-

faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,

pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

✝ THE PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION AND DISMISSAL

CM = Council Member of the Day

CM Let us proclaim together:

ALL By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities,
 and connecting others to Christ.

CM Go in peace.

ALL Thanks be to God.

✝ THE POSTLUDE

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Benjamin M. Culli

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



CONTACT INFORMATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church

501 East Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646
864-223-0590, Church Web Site: www.ilcgreenwood.com
office@ilcgreenwood.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*** Closed on Mondays**

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com

John Kinard, Congregation President

jkinard29@yahoo.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music

will@ilcgreenwood.com

Juan Luna, Sexton

Samuel Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod