

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



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

August 30, 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!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today’s Gospel, when Peter doesn’t grasp Jesus’ words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Order of Worship

✝ THE WELCOME Sue Frantz, Council Member of the Day

As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.

✝ THE PRELUDE *Fix Me, Jesus* Marianne Kim
Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

✝ THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES Ruth Divilbiss and Olive Divilbiss

✚ THE OPENING HYMN

God Is Here!

ELW # 526

Please stand, as you are able.



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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✝ 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 Compassionate God,

ALL we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, AMEN.

✝ THE ABSOLUTION

Declaration of forgiveness

Pastor Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

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.

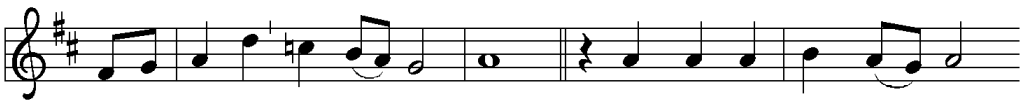
✚ THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW Setting #3

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

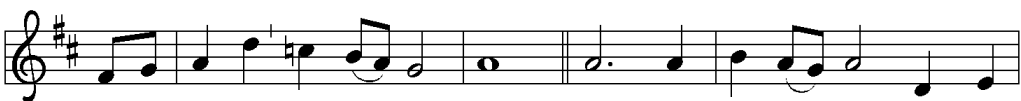


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.

Continues on page 6

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

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

✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor O God, we thank you for Jesus, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.

ALL Humble us by Christ's example, point us to the path of obedience, and provide us with strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, AMEN.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

✙ THE LESSON Romans 12:9-21

Summary

Lector *Today's lesson presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians AND non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to evil tactics but seek to overcome evil with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with everyone. Now, the lesson from the book of Romans in the New Testament.*

Lector ⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

✠ THE PSALM 26:1-8

Congregational Refrain



From A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Cantor Your Love, O LORD, is before my eyes.

ALL Your Love, O LORD, is before my eyes.

Cantor ¹ Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. ² Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

ALL Your Love, O LORD, is before my eyes.

Cantor ³ For your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

ALL Your Love, O LORD, is before my eyes.

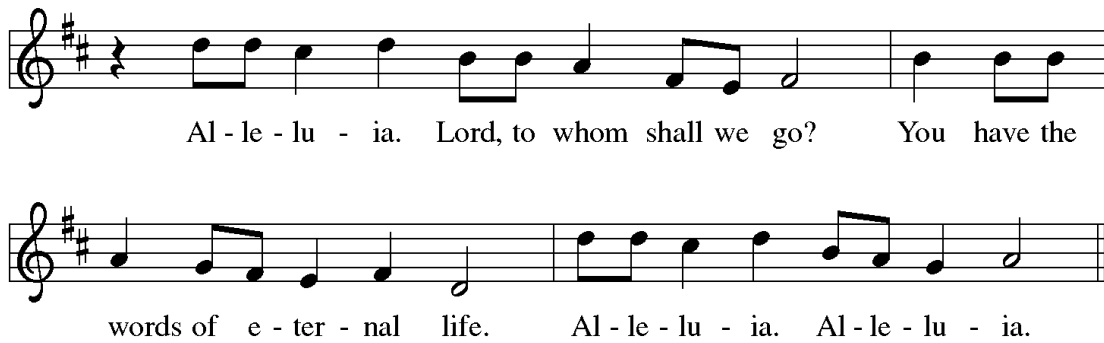
Cantor ⁶ I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar, ⁷ Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds. ⁸ Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

ALL Your Love, O LORD, is before my eyes.

✝ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting #3

Please stand, as you are able.



✝ THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 16th chapter.
ALL Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor ²¹ From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."
²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?
²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.
ALL Praise to you, O Christ.

✝ THE SERMON

The Rev. Chris Christopher

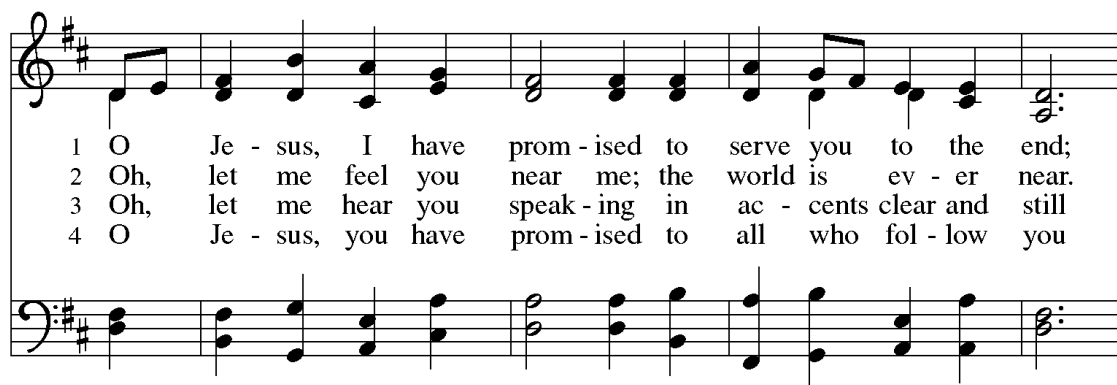
Please be seated.

✚ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW # 810

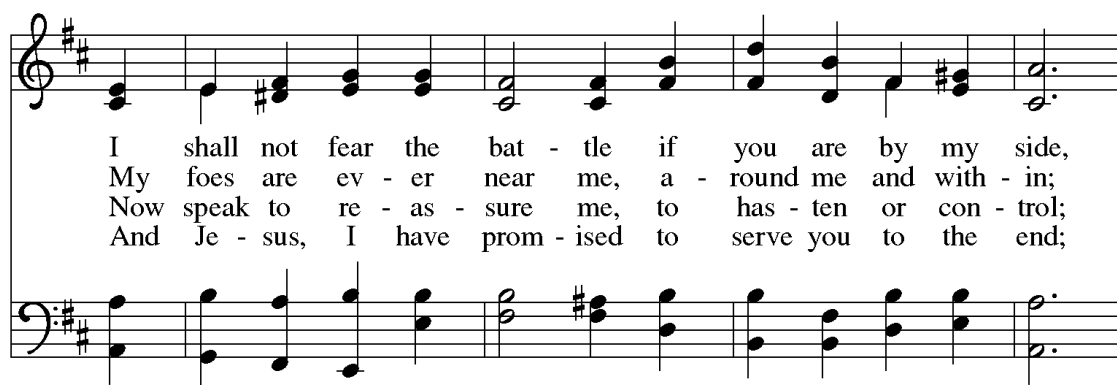
Please stand, as you are able.



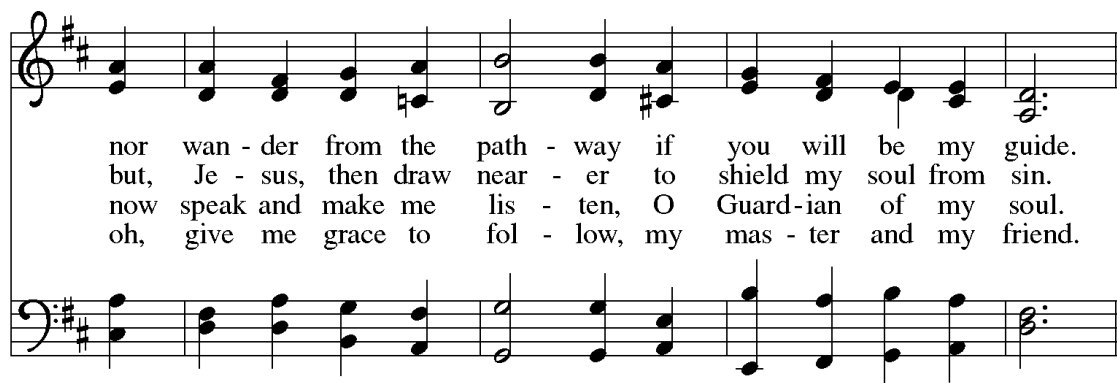
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

✙ THE NICENE CREED

AM = Assisting Minister

AM Living together in joy, let us confess our faith.

ALL We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

✙ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

AM With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and ALL of God's creation.

Silence for preparation

AM For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

ALL receive our prayer.

AM For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the Earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, physical, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Be with all in our community and the world who are oppressed Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 worshiping 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 ANTHEM

In My Heart
The Chancel Choir

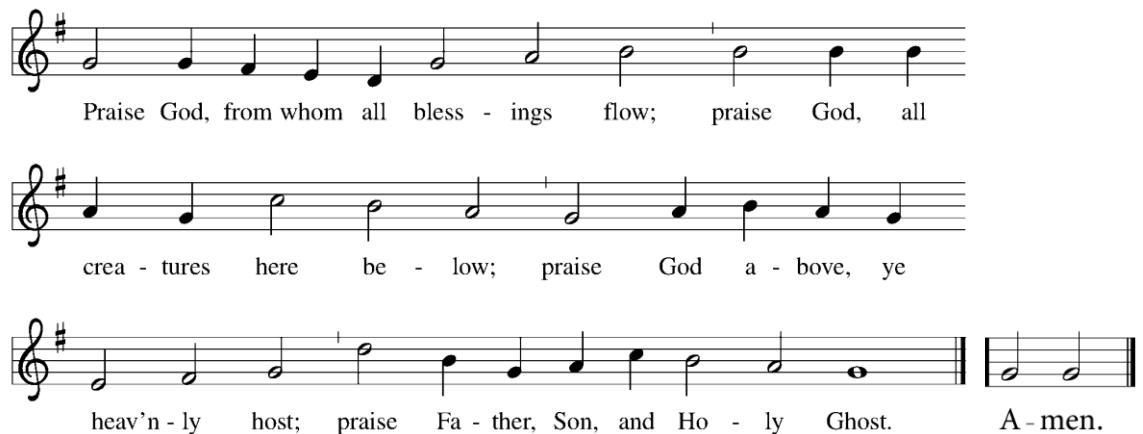
Alan Bullard

Lord, help me be a Christian in my heart, in my heart, Lord, help me be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord help me be a Christian in my heart. Lord, help me be more loving in my heart, in my heart, Lord, help me be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord help me be more loving in my heart. Lord, help me be more prayerful in my heart, in my heart, Lord, help me be more prayerful in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, help me be more prayerful in my heart. Lord, help me be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart, Lord, help me be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, help me be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.

✙ 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

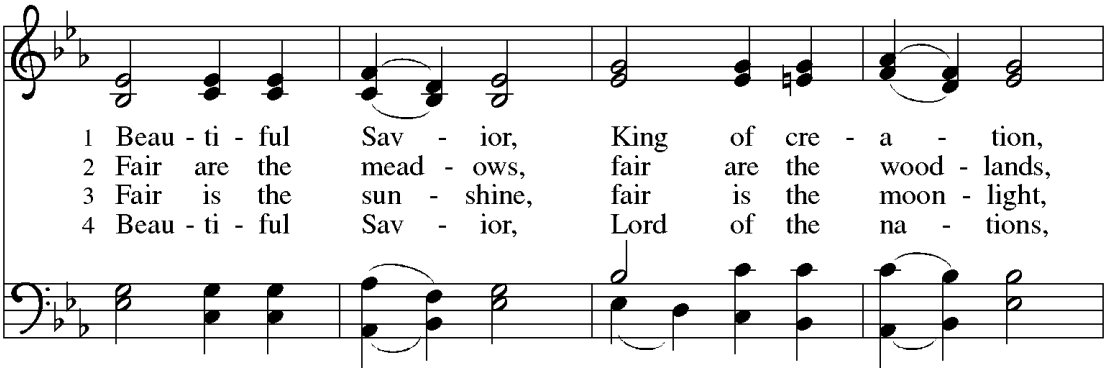
Please be seated.

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.

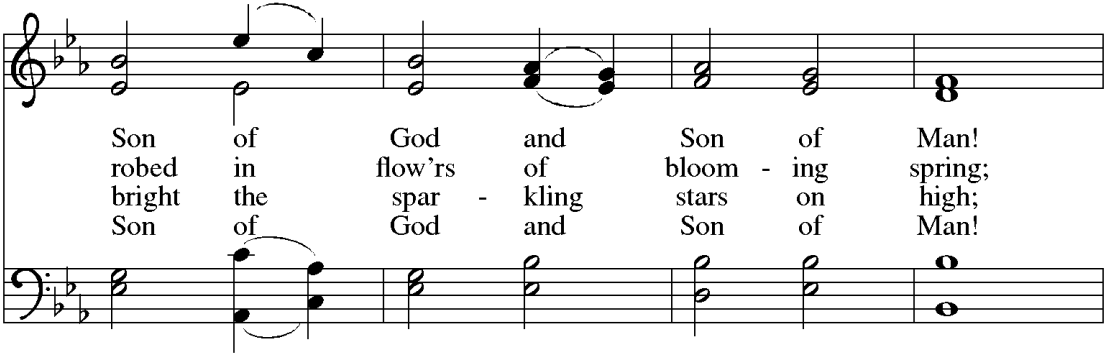
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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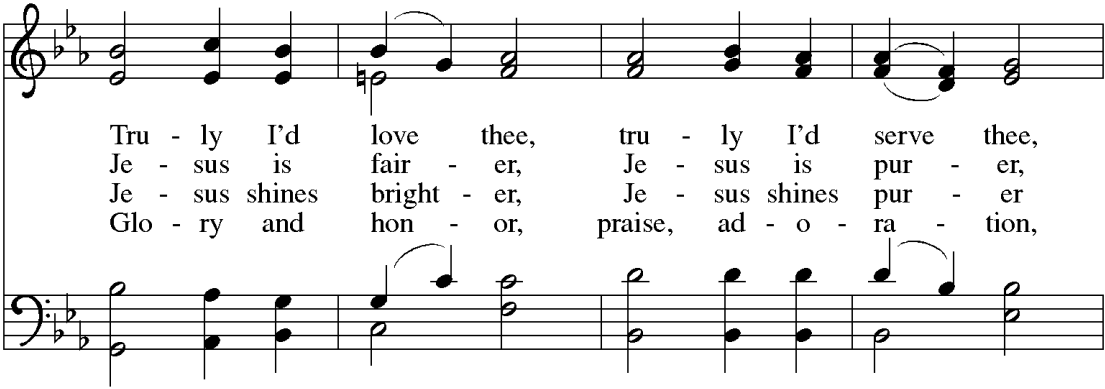
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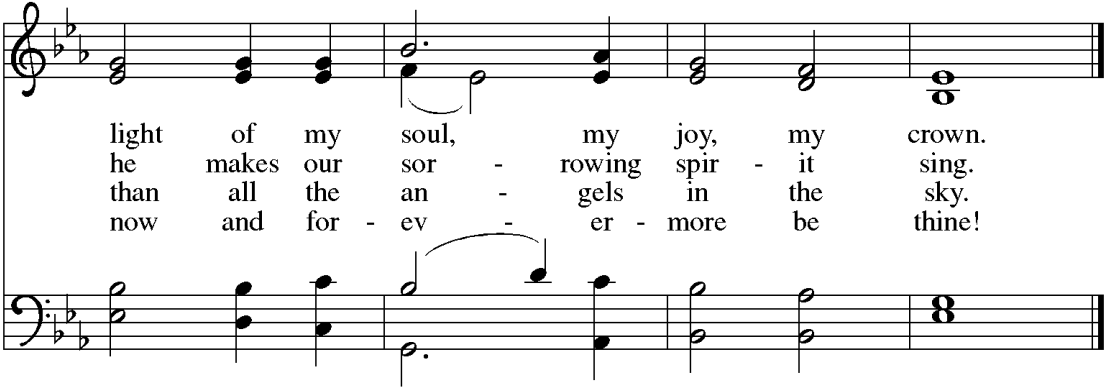
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright in the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

✝ 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.



✝ THE CLOSING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW # 551

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy to like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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✝ THE DISMISSAL

CM = Council Member of the Day

CM Let us proclaim together:

ALL Walk in God's grace and give it freely to others. Thanks be to God.

✝ THE POSTLUDE

In Christ There Is No East or West

Gilbert M. Martin

✝ THE PRAYER LIST

*Please email Dr. Will to add or remove names.
If anyone needs visitation, please contact Pastor Chris.

Those in need of healing: Maddy Bell, Linda Beveridge, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, the family of Spencer Franks, Cheryl Gagné, Michael Gagné, the Goodman family, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Chelsea Hall, Samuel Raines, John Mark Scruggs, Muriel Houde-Stickney, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Anna Luna, Chandler Patterson, Susan Smitty Stahley, Earl Womack, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Grayson Brock, Bob Brock, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Helen Harrell, Latrosha Fuller, Bruce Kaufman, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Juan Luna, Nancy Nash, Martin Pueschel, Rodine Russell (NHC 226-D), Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and

Those in the military: Daniel Darling, Nicholas Pueschel, and Devin Rosenbaum.

Expectant and new again parents and siblings, the women of Kinard Manor and ALL in recovery, the people fed through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry, the people participating in our Jail Ministry, the people of our Matthew 25:40 Ministry, along with the people they continue to help in Guatemala, and

The families of Saints who have been received into their eternal rest: George Lee Natvig.

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Council Member of the Day	Sue Frantz
Lector / Assisting Minister	Kim Leemhuis
Cantor	Tara Johnson
Acolytes	Ruth Divilbiss and Olive Divilbiss
Crucifer	Nathan Shumate
Communion Assistants	Kim Leemhuis, Sue Frantz, and Sue Kaufman
Sound and Video Technician(s)	George Beveridge and Jim Cochran
Altar Guild	Kim Leemhuis and Sue Kaufman
Ushers	Jim Wolfer and Irene Price
Counter	John Kinard
Officer on Duty	Kevin Reeder

Altar flowers today are given by Billie Havey in loving memory of her parents, William and Frances Rogers.



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 9 a.m. - 1 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