

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany February 8, 2026



AS WE GATHER The Noblest Work

Although the work of composers of church music and writers of hymn texts are often observed and even celebrated, the faithful and thoughtful work of text translators is rarely noted. One of the most gifted translators, whose work brought into English many historical and doctrinally powerful German hymns, was an Englishwoman named Catherine Winkworth. The contributors' index in *Lutheran Service Book* (p. 1002) lists forty-six hymns included in the hymnal that she translated from the original German. Her chosen words have both beauty and depth of meaning. In the second stanza of Johann Mentzer's hymn "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" (*LSB* 811), she phrases the call to all powers to praise God with these simple words: "Your noblest work is to adore." As we gather for worship and bring our praises in adoration to our gracious God, we are fulfilling our purpose as the crown of His creation. We are called in our worship to be joyfully carrying out the "noblest work." It doesn't get any better than that!

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Hail, O Source of Every Blessing” #409

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 66:1–3a, 4, 8; 40:5a; 111:3*

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

People: **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.

People: **You have multiplied, O Lord my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

People: **and His righteousness endures forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Humble yourselves, then, before God; confess your sins to Him and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed, I have continually transgressed Your Law. Too often I have sought the easy road of ignoring the needs of others and considered only myself and my wants. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal**

punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

ANTIPHON

Pastor: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

People: ♪ **For He is our maker.**

VENITE *hymnal page 220-221*

♪ **O come, let us sing unto the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.**

**For the LORD is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
the strength of the hills is His also.**

**The sea is His, and He made it,
and His hands form-ed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our maker.
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture
and the sheep of His hand.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son ✠ and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

The Baptism of Cameron Mitchell Akhtar

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 58:3-9a

(The brightness of the Lord's light breaking forth.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

(Paul speaks and writes in and with the Spirit's power.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GRADUAL AND VERSE Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8; Matthew 5:16b

People: Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts! Alleluia. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

(Jesus calls His followers to be salt and light in the world.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN "Thy Strong Word" #578

SERMON Pr. Mark Croucher

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #781 v1-2

**We give Thee but Thine own,
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee,**

**May we Thy bounties thus,
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promises to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian, Sandra, Marsha, Luetta, and especially for Stella Kimber as she and her family mourn the passing of her husband Myron. We commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: ♪ Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: ♪ Amen.

HYMN "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go" #854

POSTLUDE

THE MESSENGER

February 8, 2026

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Rev. Mark Croucher
Dan Hanggeler, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler, Luetta Buchholz, Sandra Neumann, Marsha Reese and Stella Kimber

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: 27 total, 8 guests

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: We will have an Ash Wednesday service February 18th at 5:30 pm.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, February 15th is "**Up and Down the Mountain**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Schutz Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you. Matthew 17:1-9 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.