

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
November 16, 2025



AS WE GATHER

Your Redemption Is Near

One of the great mysteries of the Christian faith can be summed up in the word “near.” “Near” can indicate something that is almost here but hasn’t yet arrived. And at the same time, “near” can point to something already with us, like those “near and dear” to our hearts. The word “near” resounds with feelings of the here and now and the not quite yet. Today in worship, Your Savior, Jesus, is near! He is present in the here and now, delivering grace upon grace. And He is on His way, bringing the fullness of His freedom. Praise the God who comes near in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

PRELUDE

HYMN “Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray” #663

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

Job 19:25a; Psalm 107:2a; Exodus 15:13; Psalm 118:24

Pastor: For I know that my Redeemer lives.

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

Pastor: You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;

People: You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

People: and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pastor: Almighty God and Father,

People: we confess, as Your people, our sinful human nature and the thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in Your sight. We need Your rescue. We need Your righteousness. We need a Redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ and His cross, rescue us from our troubles and cover our sin with true righteousness. Redeem our lives, that our days and deeds would be directed in Your peace. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh 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.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

pew hymnal page 151

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord have mercy

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord have mercy

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord have mercy

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord have mercy

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

People:  Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast" *pew hymnal page 155*

**Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

1. Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**
2. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**
3. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.
4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**
5. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. **Final Refrain**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People:  And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.
O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People:  Amen

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Malachi 4:1–6
(The Lord prepares His people to meet the sun of righteousness)

4 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

4 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13
(Paul commends believers to dedicate themselves to honorable work and doing good.)

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

♪ **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:5-28

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

People: ♪ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁵ And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷ And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People:  **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED *(found on the last page of the pew hymnal)*

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Spread the Reign of God the Lord” #830

SERMON “Until Jesus Returns” II Thessalonians 3:6-13 *Pastor Lieb*

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Redeemed in the Lord, we go to our God with our thanks, praise, and petitions, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Before Your throne, O Lord, we have an advocate: Jesus Christ, the Righteous. Grant to us the perfect peace of knowing He pleads for us and for our world.

People: **Hear us and be near us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Your Word, O Lord, is firmly fixed in the heavens. Teach us to turn to Your Word, trusting that by it You deliver us from danger and surround us with salvation.

People: **Hear us and be near us, O Lord.**

Pastor: You are faithful, O Lord, yet we are prone to wander. Pursue the weak, the worried, and the worldly, and bring them home to Your heart of love.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: In times of trial, O Lord, You promise Your unfailing presence. Strengthen the sick and suffering, Liz, Myron, Betty, Karla, Dan and Ian. Supply them with support of both body and soul.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: Your blessings abound, O Lord, yet we often fear scarcity and covet what others have. Give us contentment with the daily bread that comes from Your fatherly hand.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: Insufficient are our prayers, O Lord, and so we rest in the intercession of the Spirit, the supplication of Your risen Son, and Your fatherly goodness, trusting that near to us, You see our truest needs and You will grant to us those petitions that are beneficial to our faith in Christ and our vocations in which You call us. We place these prayers into Your hands in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

pew hymnal page 160-166

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: ♪We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: ♪It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE


Pastor: It is truly worthy, proper, and beneficial that we would give thanks to You in every time and place, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who bought our redemption through His sinless obedience and innocent suffering and death. Shedding blood more priceless than gold, Christ won for us pardon and peace, and now lives and rules at Your right hand, that He might intercede for those He has purchased from sin, death, and Satan's power. As we eagerly await His returning, gather our hearts and voices with all the redeemed, that along with angels and archangels we may bless and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for You have displayed Your power and Your provision in the merciful sending of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We praise You that He wore our flesh and bore our sins, and that He invites us to His Table to share in the fruits of His victory. Gather us in faith to receive the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, as those in need of His redemption. Give us hearts that overflow with gratitude and yearn for the nearness of our Redeemer, who died, who is risen, and who is coming again, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People:  **Amen**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER


Matthew 6:9–13

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People:  **Amen**

AGNUS DEI

 **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

♪ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪A-men

BENEDICTION

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: ♪ A-men

HYMN

POSTLUDE “For Me to Live Is Jesus” #742

THE MESSENGER

November 16, 2025

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: Pr. Fran Lieb
Dan Henggeler, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, November 23rd is "**An Unlikely King**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies Christ is the King of an unlikely kingdom. Dr. Chad Lakies describes that kingdom's seemingly upside-down, illogical logic. (Philippians 2:5-11) Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.