

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Ninth Sunday After Pentecost July 26, 2026



AS WE GATHER

Treasures of God

Jesus famously teaches, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), and Jesus knows a treasure when He sees one. Listen to the Readings in worship today. From the days of the Old Testament onward, the Lord has clearly declared how He vastly treasures His people. The Son of God gives up everything to reclaim you as His treasured possession. And it is purely His love for you that gives you true value and limitless worth. Since His treasure is His people, you can be sure His heart remains with His people too, as He visits us here with the priceless goodness of His Word and Sacrament.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

BIRTHDAY BLESSING 7/26 Gary Rayburn

♪ Thanks for our friends who celebrate
And God's rich blessings contemplate.
Praise for another year on earth.
Praise to the Lord who gives us birth. Amen.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father" #725

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 *Romans 11:33; Deuteronomy 7:7, 9; Romans 11:36*

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

Pastor: The Lord set His love on you and chose you.

People: **Know therefore that the Lord is God.**

Pastor: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

People: **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Romans 8:31–32*

Pastor: You are a people holy to the Lord your God.

People: **We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.**

Pastor: Almighty God,

People: we have not lived up to our calling as Your treasured possession. Our desires are selfish and our love is shallow. We have turned aside from doing good and chosen to treasure things of creation rather than our Creator. In our sinful state we are vulnerable to the devil, death, and darkness. And so we seek Your mercy. We surrender to Your loving kindness in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

People: “He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”

Pastor: Indeed, the mercy of almighty God is displayed in the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word 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.
Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith,
hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised,
we may love what You have commanded; 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 7:6–9
(In love, the Lord reaffirms His faithfulness and His people's worth.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 8:28-39
(Paul gives words to the inexpressibly lavish love of God in Christ Jesus.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE *Matthew 13:35b*

Pastor: Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables;

People: **I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44-52*

(Jesus' parables of the kingdom point to the value of the treasures He came to save.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th 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 "Through Jesus' Blood and Merit" #746

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: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Mighty Lord, we need Your constant defense in a world of death, danger, and distraction. Guard us in both body and soul, that Your people might live to the praise of our victorious Savior, Jesus. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Generous Lord, all good things are gifts from Your holy hand. Undo our attitudes of selfishness and renew within us a spirit of generosity, freely giving of our treasures to the needy in our midst. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Seeking and saving Lord, You tirelessly pursue the children of earth with Your goodness and mercy. Soften hearts hardened to Your Gospel and activate Your people to witness to Your goodness. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Faithful Lord, despite our sin, You keep covenant and steadfast love. Rescue families where loyalties have been betrayed and trust broken. Mend hurting hearts with forgiveness and restore them by Your grace. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: All-seeing Lord, You set Your heart on the least and fewest. Set Your heart once again on the lonely, the dying, the poor, and the sick, especially Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta. Bring good amid their challenges and remind us that no problem is too big for Your power and no one is too small to escape Your notice. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: These prayers, and all those lifted up by believers around the world, we entrust to Your care, O almighty God, trusting You to hear and answer according to the Father's will, in the Son's grace, and by the Spirit's power.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 "In Thee Is Gladness" #818

POSTLUDE

THE MESSENGER

July 26, 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
Linda Rayburn, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler, and Luetta Buchholz

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 13 total: 2 guests

VOTERS MEETING: There will be a brief voters meeting after the service today.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, August 2nd is "**Why Jesus Told Parables**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Archives August—Effective communicators tell stories to make a point.
Hear how Jesus' parables point us to Himself. Mark 4 Genesis 39:21
Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.