

**SEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**

**JULY 16, 2023**

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**Missouri Synod**



**703 W 3<sup>RD</sup> Street  
Mercedes, Texas 78570**

**956.565.1518**

**Immanuelmercedes  
@gmail.com**

**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
956.463.1305  
eweber10@aol.com**

**Website:**

**[lutheranmercedes.com](http://lutheranmercedes.com)**

***Sunday***

**9:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**10:30 AM**

**Adult Bible Class**

**Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

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**Website:**

**[Misionemanuel.com](http://Misionemanuel.com)**

**Office Hrs, M-F  
8 am to 12 pm**

**CCLI # 2585510**



**“But he who received seed on the  
good ground is he who hears the  
word and understands it, who  
indeed bears fruit and produces:  
some a hundredfold, some sixty,  
some thirty.” (Matthew 13:23)**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JULY 16, 2023**

**WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

This week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

**A Prayer Upon Entering Church** - Lord God, by the power of Your Word alone, You created everything out of nothing, and You have caused me to be drawn to You in hope. Open my ears and my heart to hear and believe Your Word this day anew that I may grow by Your grace in the faith and the love that are in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**AS WE GATHER** - Though you may be familiar with Jesus' parable of the sower, you may be surprised to hear that you do not really know it yet! That's because on the one hand, the Word of God does not change. Yet on the other hand, we need to keep hearing it again and again, because our circumstances are constantly changing. The parable of the sower tells of this mystery. The seed is God's Word, God's work of planting repentance and faith in ears who hear. We may think of the

various kinds of soil Jesus mentions to be various sorts of people. Actually, however, He is describing each individual in their changing circumstances. There are times when we are “good soil,” that is, we understand God’s Word and take comfort in it. There are other times, however, when we either cannot or will not hear it. Sometimes we become hard paths, rocky or distracted by worries or fears. For this reason, God never ceases planting, speaking, and growing faith in the heart, and we return repeatedly to continue hearing, reading, learning, and receiving God’s Word because He never gives up on you.

**DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR**

**PAGE 203**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)*

**OPENING HYMN** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* **LSB 901**



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!

3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;

**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE** 3

Here Thy seed is duly sown.  
Let my soul, where it is planted,  
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
So that all I hear may be  
Fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;  
Let me keep Thy gift divine,  
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine  
As my guiding star through life,  
As my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;  
Let Thy will be done indeed.  
May I undisturbed draw near Thee  
While Thou dost Thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows;  
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Public domain

*Please stand*

## **INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I**

**pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## **+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 103:15–19; antiphon: v. 8*

**P** The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

**C** **As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes.**

**P** For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

**C** **But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children,**

**P** To such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them.

**C** **The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.**

**P** The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

## **KYRIE**



**☐** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

*CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE* 5

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Isaiah 55:10–13*  
(God’s powerful Word for all)

10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. 12 “For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 65:(1–8) 9–13; antiphon: v. 5*

**P** By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas;

**C** **You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it.**

**P** You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.

**C** **You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance.**

**P** They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side.

**C** **The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain; they shout for joy, they also sing.**

**P** By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of

**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE 7**

our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas;

**EPISTLE**      *Romans 8:12–17*

(Life through the Spirit)

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—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 as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears 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 indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.


P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUA and VERSE**



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



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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



*Please stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*  
*(The parable of the sower)*

P    The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**C    Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the way-side; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. 20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

P    This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C    Praise to You, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

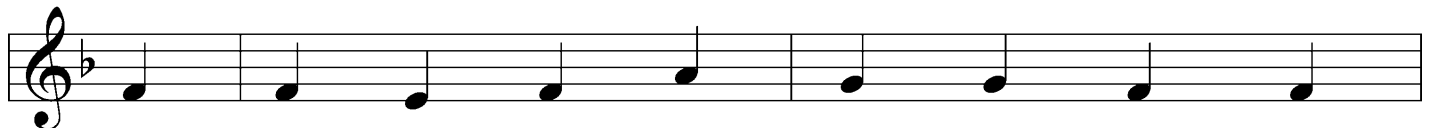
All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please sit*

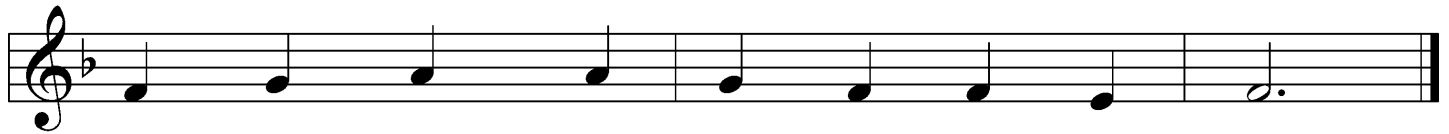
**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*     **LSB 577**



1	Al	-	might	-	y	God,	Your	Word	is	cast	Like
2	Let	not	the	sly	sa	-	tan	-	ic	foe	This
3	Let	not	the	world's	de	-	ceit	-	ful	cares	The
4	So	when	the	pre	-	cious	seed	is	sown,	Life	-



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of  
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in  
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a  
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.  
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.  
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON**

***“The crop producing Word of God!”***

(Matthew 13:23)

**OFFERING**

*Please stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing*

**LSB 584**



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the



Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,



Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your



Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with

**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE 11**



thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.

2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing  
Bring to life the hidden grain,  
Daily in our hearts increasing,  
Bearing fruit that shall remain.  
So in Scripture, song, and story,  
Savior, may Your voice be heard.  
Till our eyes behold Your glory  
Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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**SHARING OF THE PEACE**      *"Peace be with you"*      (John 20:21)  
(Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray. We praise You, O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth worships You, our Creator and Redeemer. By Your mighty Word, all things live and move and have their being. We praise You for Your creation. But with even greater praise, we give thanks for Your re-creating Word by which You have conquered sin and death, restoring earth's beauty and eternal life to all who believe. Cause Your Word to be received and believed by all people, giving everyone Your new life through faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** For the glorious company of the apostles, the fellowship of the prophets, and the evangelists of Your Gospel, we give You thanks. Give conviction and strength to all today whom You have called and ordained to proclaim Your Word to this generation, and bring forth the fruits of faith and love in all those renewed by Your Word and Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** God bless our native land with freedom and wisdom to

acknowledge Your Holy Word as the only sure foundation of governance in line with Your grace, wisdom, and will. Raise up servant leaders to guard, guide, and protect all citizens of our country in the way of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P As You promise Your own healing peace and comfort for Your people, so surround all who suffer any need, sickness, or adversity. Grant that their faith never fail and their prayers never cease. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P As the washing of water with Your Word in Holy Baptism raises us to new life now by faith, so give the confidence of the resurrection to eternal life to all. We give thanks for all who have departed in faith and now rest from their labors. Keep us in the wisdom and confidence of faith in the Word of our Lord Jesus who said, "everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:26). Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

### **PREFACE**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with your spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ,

the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us ever-lasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from

the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**                    *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

**C**    **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 WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**P**    Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

**P**    In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini**

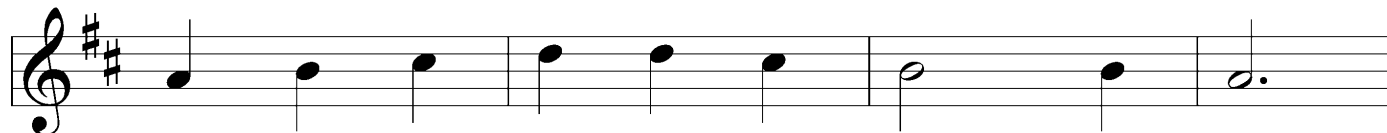
**P**    The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C**    **Amen.**

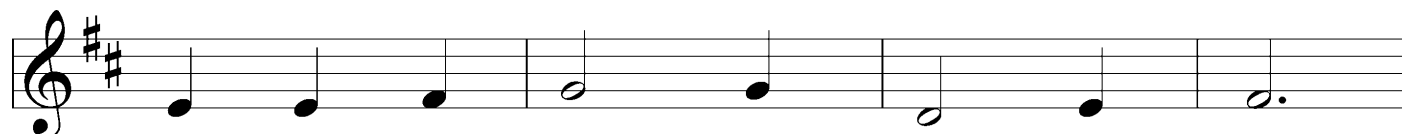
## AGNUS DEI



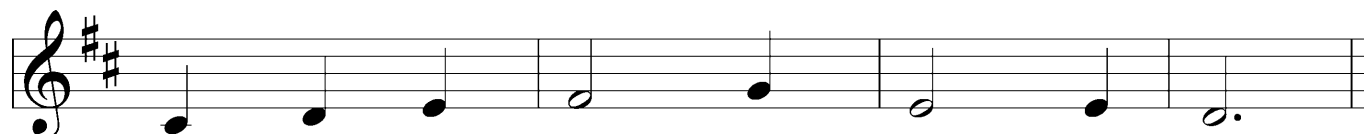
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Please sit*

### **SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING**

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins.

Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.



**COMMUNION HYMN***Your Table I Approach***LSB 628**

1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.  
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;  
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.  
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.  
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.  
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your servant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the

Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

*(Numbers 6:24-26)*

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

*Please sit*

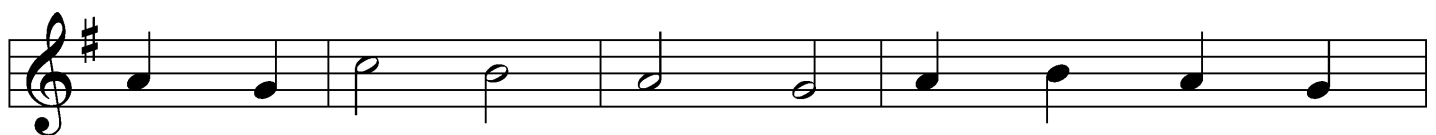
## SENDING HYMN

*Almighty Father, Bless the Word*

**LSB 923**



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your  
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward  
△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious  
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!  
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.  
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text and tune: Public domain

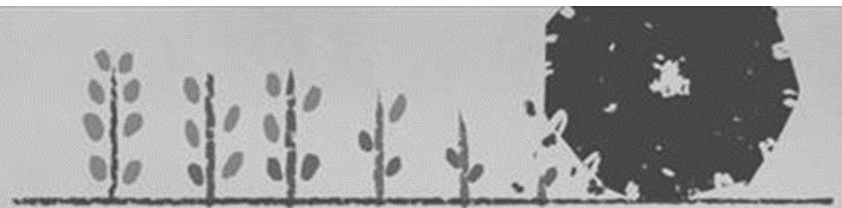
## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE** 19

**C Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

An illustration at the top of the text block shows a row of stylized plants of varying heights on the left, and a large, dark, circular sun or moon on the right. A horizontal line runs across the base of the plants and the sun.

You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks  
overflow with  
**ABUNDANCE.**  
PSALM 65:11

## *Sermon Notes*



***From Pastor's Desk***

**Portals of Prayer** for July to September 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

***Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.***  
*Rev. Weber will be leading the class.*

***July Activities***

***While Pastor Weber and family are on vacation,***  
*Pastor Richardson from San Benito*  
*will be leading the services on the following*  
***Sundays - July 23rd and 30th.***

*Immanuel Lutheran School*  
***2023-2024 Registration will be held on***  
***Wednesday, July 26, 2023***  
***5:30 to 7:30 p.m.***  
***in the Social Hall***

***Memory Verse Challenge***

*This week's memory verse: **John 5:39***

*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.*



## The Preaching of the Word of Christ Bears the Good Fruits of Faith and Love

As “the rain and the snow come down from heaven” and “water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout” (Is. 55:10), so the Word of God accomplishes the purpose for which He speaks it, granting joy and peace through the forgiveness of sins and producing the fruits of faith and love in those who are called by His name. Christ Jesus, the incarnate Word, has established the name of the Lord as “an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Is. 55:13). He opens our ears to hear, our minds to understand and our hearts to believe His Word, lest the evil one come and snatch it away. He thus transforms our rocky hearts into good soil, which clings to the Gospel and “indeed bears fruit” (Matt. 13:23). He is Himself the firstfruits of all who “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons” (Rom. 8:15). Thus being “led by the Spirit of God,” we are not afraid, but we cry out in faith to our Father in heaven (Rom. 8:14–15). For as we suffer with Christ, the beloved Son, so shall we “also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17).

<b>7/9/2023</b>	
<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>32</b>
Plate:	\$ 45.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,598.00
Memorials:	
<b>Jeanette Weber-Cemetary</b>	\$ 250,00
<b>Lee Roy Veland</b>	\$ 50.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,943.00</b>
<b>Bible Class:</b>	<b>12</b> \$ 16.00

***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost***  
***Readings:***  
*Isaiah 44:6-8*  
*Psalms 119:57-64*  
*Romans 8:18-27*  
*Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

<b>Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule</b>		
<i>July Sunday Servants:</i>		
Elder:	Dan Wehling	
Altar Guild:	Suzanne Wehling & Rose Ann Cisneros	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
<b>This Week</b>	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
<b>Next Week</b>	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am