

**EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

JULY 23, 2023

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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Mercedes**

Texas 78570

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LutheranMercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranMercedes/)**

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

**Website:
lutheranmercedes.
com**

Sunday

9:00 A.M.

Worship Service


10:30 a.m.

**Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs, M-F
8 am to 12 pm
CCLI # 2585510**



**“ Let both grow together until
the harvest, and at the time of
harvest I will say to the reapers,
“First gather together the tares
and bind them in bundles to burn
them, but gather the wheat into
my barn.” (Matthew 13:30)**

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 23, 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.

Next 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 - Heavenly Father, who has ordered all things for my good, grant me faithfulness and patience as I endure the evil around me, until I rejoice at Christ's coming at the end of time; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - God's plans are far beyond our understanding. Even His divine existence sends our minds reeling. No wonder that Jesus' disciples, and we who follow them, cannot figure out why He lets His and our spiritual enemies live with us. But because we have been given faith by the Holy Spirit, and although we cannot understand God's plans, in the death and resurrection of Christ, our Lord, we trust His divine wisdom. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit and know that the Spirit intercedes for us. Thus, even in the groans of our prayers, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In sure hope, we wait for the day when we shall "shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

WELCOME

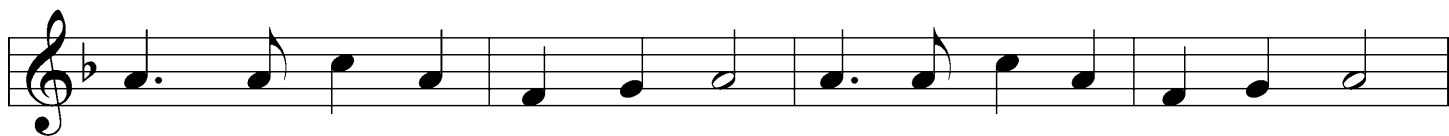
PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)

OPENING HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

LSB 892



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har - vest home,
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 From His field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
 Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

Text and tune: 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 132:13-16; antiphon, Psalm 34:8*

P Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

C For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place:

P “This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

C I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

P I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

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;



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.



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,



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—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;

Continue on next page

You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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 44:6–8*

(No one compares to God.)

6 "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. 7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them. 8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.' "

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 119:57–64; antiphon: v. 89*

P Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

C **You are my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep**

Your words.

P I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; be merciful to me according to Your word.

C I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.

P I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments.

C The cords of the wicked have bound me, but I have not forgotten Your law.

P At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments.

C I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts.

P The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy; teach me Your statutes.

All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:18–27

(The Holy Spirit intercedes as we wait for the end of this troubled world.)

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself

Continue on next page

makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

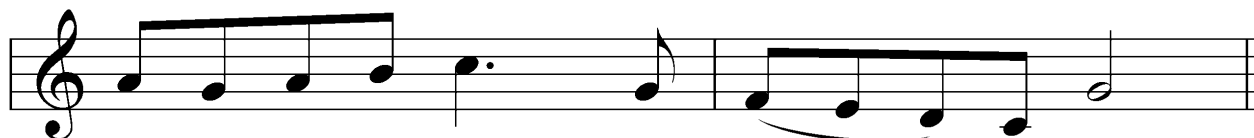
ALLELUIA and VERSE



☐ 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.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

(The parable of the wheat and weeds)

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

C **Glory to You , O Lord.**

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field?

How then does it have tares?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ”

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

37 He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

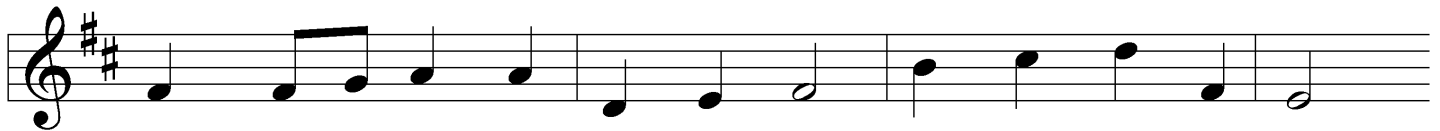
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

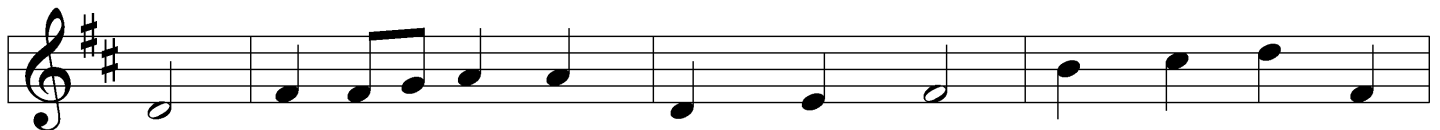
Amen.

Please sit

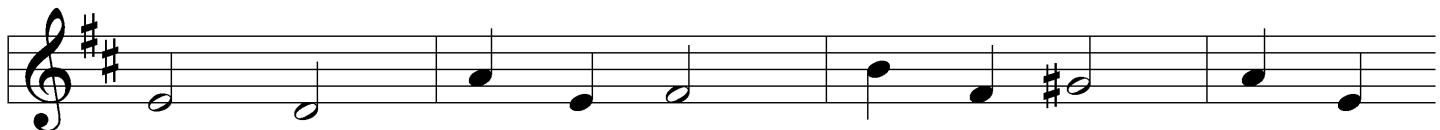
HYMN OF THE DAY *Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray* **LSB 663**



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

SERMON

by Pastor Richardson

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

Create in Me

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

[using American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P When we look at the storms gathering around us, many people are in dire straits. Let us pray for them, for the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the human powers that be, that God would enable them to make and administer laws to order society within their

Continue on next page 11

borders and to establish peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P For the disenfranchised and homeless, the forgotten and oppressed, the unemployed and disheartened, that God would protect and defend them, open doors of opportunity for them, and move them to rely on Him for all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P For those near and dear to us in their illnesses, anger, grief, or despair, [especially . . .], and those whom we name in our hearts now [pause for silent prayer], that God would visit, relieve, strengthen, and renew them according to His gracious plan, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P For those who tend flocks and till the soil, who provide transportation and manage shops, who provide protection in their communities and defense of their nation, and who respond to sudden emergencies and work to increase health and wellbeing, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P For ourselves and all who come to the Lord's Table in true faith, that God would bestow on us His forgiveness, life, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father,

C grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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

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.**

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

Preserve Your Word, O Savior

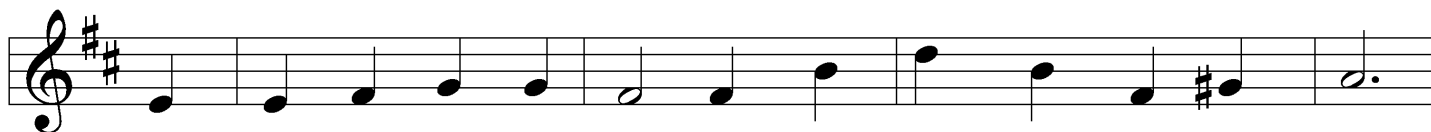
LSB 658



1 Pre - serve Your Word, O Sav - ior, To us this lat - ter day,
2 Pre - serve, O Lord, Your hon - or, The bold blas - phem - er smite;
3 Pre - serve, O Lord, Your Zi - on, Bought dear - ly with Your blood;
4 Pre - serve Your Word and preach - ing, The truth that makes us whole,
5 Pre - serve in wave and tem - pest Your storm-tossed lit - tle flock;



And let Your king - dom flour - ish; En - large Your Church, we pray.
Con - vince, con - vert, en - light - en The souls in er - ror's night.
Pro - tect what You have cho - sen A - gainst the hell - ish flood.
The mir - ror of Your glo - ry, The pow'r that saves the soul.
As - sailed by wind and weath - er, May it en - dure each shock.



O keep our faith from fail - ing; Keep hope's bright star a - glow.
Re - veal Your will, dear Sav - ior, To all who dwell be - low,
Be al - ways our de - fend - er When dan - gers gath - er round;
Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, This dew of heav'n - ly grace,
Stand at the helm, our pi - lot, And set the course a - right;



Let noth - ing from truth turn us While liv - ing here be - low.
Great light of all the liv - ing, That all Your name may know.
When all the earth is crum - bling, Safe may Your Church be found.
Sus - tain us while here liv - ing Un - til we see Your face.
Then we will reach the har - bor In Your e - ter - nal light.

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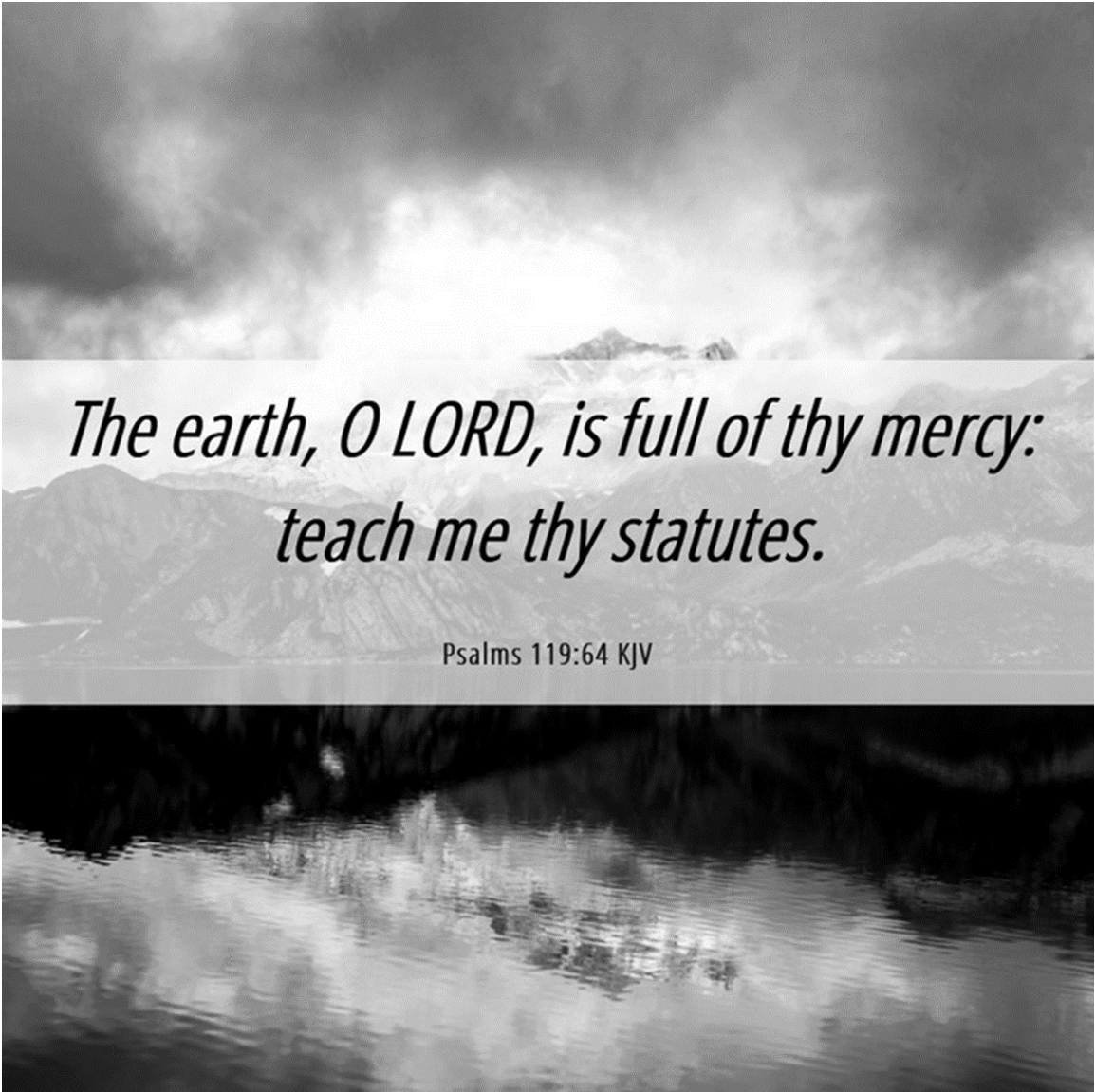
DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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*The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy:
teach me thy statutes.*

Psalms 119:64 KJV

From the Pastor's Desk

Portals of Prayer 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 Round-up (Registration)
Wednesday, July 26th, 2023
Social Hall
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.*

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Sermon Notes:



MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

This week's memory verse: *Hebrews 1:1-2*

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

7/16/2023		
Sunday Worship	42	
Plate:		\$ 136.00
Envelopes:		\$ 1,883.00
Online		
Memorials:		
	Total:	\$ 2,019.00
Bible Class:	13	\$ 14.00

***NINTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST Readings:***

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Psalm 125

Romans 8:28-39

Matthew 13:44-52

The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith

The good Seed, which is “the Son of Man,” Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in “the sons of the kingdom” (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets “both grow together until the harvest” (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is “the King of Israel and his Redeemer” (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, “fear not, nor be afraid” (Is. 44:8). For “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, “the Spirit helps us in our weakness” (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom. 8:18).

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	July Sunday Servants	August Sunday Servants
Elder:	Dan Wehling	Ken Eilers
Altar Guild:	S. Wehling/R. Cisneros	Donna Jackson/Lorri Marchant
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	<i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	<i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am