

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9



SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

5:00 PM



AS WE GATHER

When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was “bound with chains as a criminal” (2 Timothy 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive in Rome, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy “the time of my departure has come” (2 Timothy 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:11–12a). Paul’s words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

AS YOU WORSHIP WITH US

- **Assisted Listening Devices** are available from an Elder or Usher.
- **If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion but would like a blessing, simply come forward during the distribution, cross your arms when you approach the Pastor and he will speak a blessing.**
- **Holy Communion** is offered to those who have been instructed in what the Scriptures teach about Communion. We believe the Bible teaches:
 - 1) Jesus Christ is our only Lord and Savior from all sin, death, and the power of evil;
 - 2) The Risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and that with the bread and wine we receive His Body and Blood; and
 - 3) We resolve to dedicate our lives to the service of our Lord in His Body, the Church, through worship, sacrificial giving, and thankful living.
- **Non-alcoholic wine** is available for those who prefer this substitute. **Gluten-free wafers** are also available. Please inform the pastor of your preference when you approach.



✠ GATHERING ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”

LSB 827

CALLING ON GOD’S NAME

SPEAKING GOD’S WORD TO ONE ANOTHER

Psalm 67:1–5, 7

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,

People: that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

People: God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

SEEKING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins and hear the words of absolution that assure us of God's forgiveness. Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. 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.

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your lives reflect His forgiveness. Be at peace!

People: Amen.

✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6–9

(The prophet encourages God's people.)

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:12-14; 19-30

(Paul writes that to live is Christ.)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

(The parable of the laborers in the vineyard.)

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

Apostles' Creed

CONNECTING SONG “Christ the Eternal Lord” LSB 829

MESSAGE “It’s Not Fair” Pastor Donald

TALKING WITH GOD (Need prayer? Text 224-801-2902)

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 promised to hear us....

Petition Response:

Pastor: 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Gifts for the Mission and Ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School are received.

♦ Text IMMANUELGIVE to #77977 ♦ Download Our Mobile App – God With Us

✠ RECEIVING GOD’S GIFTS ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

LORD’S PRAYER (forgive us our sins)

COMMUNION SONGS “Lord of All Hopefulness” LSB 738

 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” LSB 720

LEAVING WITH A BLESSING *Numbers 6:24–26*

SENDING SONG “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” LSB 782

Jim Vyhanek, Organ/Piano

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