

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Psalms 1

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my

child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus]; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel - We are delighted to have everyone worshiping with us today. We invite you to sign a communion card, if you would please, so that we might have a registry of those sharing Holy Communion with us.

Prayer before Worship: Heavenly Father, you know what is on my heart and on my mind today. Please be with me, my family and my friends so that we may feel your presence and take comfort in knowing that you walk with us daily. Amen.

Prayer Requests: We welcome requests of prayers for our members, friends and families throughout our communities and beyond. Anyone is welcome to leave a note on the desk in the office or contact the pastor.

Offering envelopes are located and available on the table in the entry.

Please designate how you would like to have your offering used if for anything other than general funds.

The Lord's Supper, (offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) the Eucharist, or Holy Communion is a means of God's grace whereby the real presence of Christ is offered. ***If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of needing a blessing today. All are welcome at the Lord's table.***

We have Children's Bulletins for those who wish to enhance the worship experience for the kids. They can be found each week on the table with the regular Sunday Bulletins.

This Week at Immanuel 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Sunday School

Sunday, September 7, 2025

WORSHIP LEADERS: JIM GERBER, SAM

Lay Reader: Amy Winterland

Greeters: Phil & Angie Kratochvil

Ushers/Acolytes: Jerry & Suzie Kukuck

Communion: Dennis G., Jerry K.

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

Sunday, September 14, 2025

WORSHIP LEADERS: TBD

Lay Reader: Lisa Winterland

Greeters: Jerry & Suzie Kukuck

Ushers/Acolytes: Ron & Deb Jaskowiak

Communion: na

Organist: Cindy Wilson

Please include the following people in our prayers:

Lois Barker, Gary Kessinger, Cheryl Poppe, Jeannie Weber, Bob & Nancy Lasser, Judy Logan, Kevin and Chad Allen (family members of Von Becker), Cindy Harris, and Rebecca Casson, Kris Barnett.

[Please share known updates for any changes to this list.]

Announcements

We are preparing to Kick Off a New Season of Sunday School with Rally Day on September 7th following our worship service. Activities are being planned to celebrate. Sunday School Classes for Pre-school – 6th grade and Jr/Sr High Classes will begin at 10:15 am Sunday, September 14th. Please spread the word and bring the family!

LWR Quilts and Kits - There are several ways to help throughout the year if you are interested but not able to attend in person. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to our quilt project this year! There is a box in the parish hall of pre-cut packages of quilt squares that can be sewn into quilt tops. Please use 1/2" seam, a tight/short stitch, and do not make a cross pattern. Questions, see Dee Winterland.

We will be finishing our LWR projects for this year in the coming weeks. Please watch the newsletter and bulletin announcements for ways that you can help with quilts and other Lutheran World Relief projects. (Please see the list of items for School Kits and Personal Care Kits in this bulletin.)

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Newsletter, bulletin, and member information or changes may be sent to
ckwilson1983@gmail.com or immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com

Lutheran World Relief - Fall Collections

School Kit: (church will provide bags)

- * Four 70-80 sheet notebooks (wide or college-ruled, no loose-leaf paper)
- * 30 centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- * Pencil sharpener
- * Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- * Five unsharpened #2 pencils
- * Five blue or black ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- * Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- * 2 ½" eraser

Personal Care Kit:

- * Light-weight bath size towel (20"x40" to 52"x27", dark color)
- * Two or three bath size bars of soap totaling 8 -9 oz. in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)
- * Adult size toothbrush
- * Sturdy comb (no picks or fine toothed combs)
- * Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the worship leader begins -

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

L: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

*GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Congregation may be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

back of bulletin

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

READING

Philemon 1-21

back of bulletin

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW, page 142

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:1-11

back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Jim Gerber, SAM

HYMN OF DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

*APOSTLES' CREED *please stand as you are able*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition: L: God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

L: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

Congregation may be seated.

WE GATHER OUR OFFERINGS

*OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able*

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray... Lord of the harvest,

C: we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Congregation may be seated.

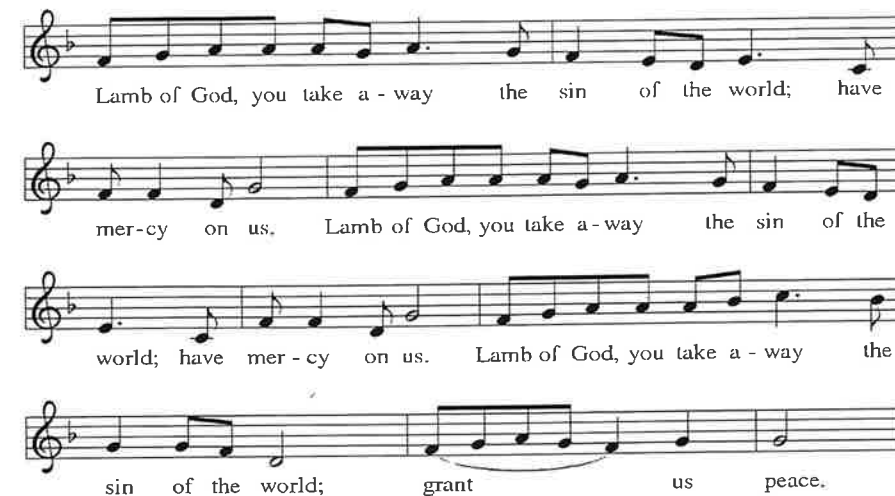
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. The inner circle of cups contain grape juice, the rest are wine. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of needing a blessing today. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

ELW page 146



*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways
O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ELW 772

ELW 810

After all have returned to their places, please stand as you are able.

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray... O God,

C: through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

* BLESSING

L: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE