

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:  
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.  
<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.  
  
<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.  
<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what  
King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”  
\*

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those  
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is  
the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,  
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will  
thwart.”  
<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar?  
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made  
foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the  
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through

wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the  
proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews  
ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we pro-  
claim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and  
foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the  
called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of  
God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness  
is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is  
stronger than human strength.  
<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not  
many of you were wise by human standards, not many  
were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But  
God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the  
wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame  
the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in  
the world, things that are not, to abolish things that  
are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of  
God. <sup>30</sup>In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus,  
who became for us wisdom from God, and righteous-  
ness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order  
that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in  
the Lord.”

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**  
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And  
he began to speak and taught them, saying:  
<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the king-  
dom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be  
comforted.  
<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the  
earth.  
<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righ-  
teousness, for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive  
mercy.  
<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called  
children of God.  
<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake  
of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and  
persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you  
falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your  
reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they  
persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

# Blessed ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

MATTHEW 5:9



# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Church Secretary: Cindy Wilson 309-825-4099 ckwilson1983@gmail.com

***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're so glad you're here! There are many good reasons to come to church, but the best one is to worship and thank God for His amazing love — shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what our church is all about.

**Prayer before Worship:** Lord, remind us that every new beginning starts with your grace. Renew our faith, restore our peace, and help us live as your people of light and hope. 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. **There is also a prayer box with cards to use on the table under the mailboxes for prayer requests.**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 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 wanting a blessing. 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.

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Newsletter, bulletin, and member information or changes may be sent to  
[ckwilson1983@gmail.com](mailto:ckwilson1983@gmail.com) or [immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com](mailto:immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com)

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

## **Sunday, February 1, 2026**

WORSHIP LEADER: TIM SCOTT, SAM

Lay Reader: Rebecca Casson

Greeters: Phil & Angie Kratochvil

Ushers/Acolytes: Harlan B., Dan Harms

Communion: John & Cindy Harris

Organist: Cindy Wilson

## **Sunday, February 8, 2026**

WORSHIP LEADER: TBD

Lay Reader: Dennis Griepentrog

Greeters: Jerry & Suzie Kukuck

Ushers/Acolytes: Kasen Casson, Ty Harms

Communion: na

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

**Please include the following people in our prayers:**

Lois Barker, Cheryl Poppe, Jeannie Weber, Bob & Nancy Lasser, Cindy Harris, Rebecca Casson, Kris Barnett, Betty Petersen

## *Announcements*

**Welcome to Worship this morning, and we also extend a warm welcome to Tim Scott.** We are very grateful that he is able to join us today.

**Confirmation Class will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairbury today.**

**Please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation to take place February 15, 2026 after worship.**

**Reports** that need to be included with the Annual Report need to be submitted to Cindy Wilson by next Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**LWR Quilts** - There is a box in the parish hall of pre-cut packages of quilt squares that can be sewn into quilt tops. These will help us prepare for quilting next year. Please use 1/2" seam, a tight/short stitch, and do not make a cross pattern.

**We are back to knotting quilt tops!** We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesdays, Feb. 10 and 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

We would love to have some new faces join us! It's easy and the company is great! 😊 Please let Dee Winterland know if you plan to attend so if we need to cancel due to weather or illness, she can let you know in advance.

**There is a large printed version of our Congregation Directory** on the table in the fellowship hall. Please take a minute to see if your contact information is correct or if there is anyone who needs to update their information.

**Members of Immanuel,**

**The Call Committee and Council are excited to announce that we have approved recommending a pastoral candidate to our congregation!**

**What does this mean?**

The call committee met with the candidate and proceeded to recommend him to the council. The council met and interviewed him on January 22nd and voted unanimously that evening to recommend him to the congregation as Immanuel's next pastor.

**What's next?**

There will be a Meet & Greet on Sunday, February 1st at 4PM at the church. We will gather in the sanctuary for an introduction and short presentation then will move to the parish hall for refreshments and time for members to personally meet with the candidate and his wife.

At the regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, February 10th at 7PM, the council will discuss and approve a proposed compensation plan for the candidate that will be presented at the annual meeting.

At our Annual Meeting on February 15th at 10AM, we will hold a congregational vote on whether or not to proceed with this candidate and the approved compensation plan. Bishop Greg Busboom will be in attendance at this meeting to answer questions, help with the ballots, and if the candidate is approved will have paperwork ready for us to complete the process of the call.

We hope you can all join us as we take these next steps in deciding the future of Immanuel Lutheran Church. The call committee and council members are grateful for the patience the congregation has had as we have navigated the call process for the last 5 years and waited for a candidate that we believe is a good fit for our congregation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Winterland, Kay Bose, Gary Buchs, Janelle Hoffman, Jeanne Weber, and Keith Winterland

Call Committee Members

Eli Petersen, Dennis Griepentrog, Chad Hoffman, Erin Ifft, Suzie Kukuck, Lexi Morgan, Ryan Myers, Connie Petersen, and Cory Winterland  
Council Members

## *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

February 1, 2026

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

### PRELUDE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### *Gathering*

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

*\*Congregation may remain seated or stand as you are able*

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

***Christ Be Our Light***

**ELW 715**

\*GREETING      \*Please stand as you are able

P: 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.**

\*KYRIE

ELW page 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.      (sung or spoken) **C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW page 140

All: Refrain ~ ***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

Women: ***Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be  
people of God.*** Refrain

Men: ***Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.***

Refrain

All: ***Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:***

***Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.***

Refrain

All: ***For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.***

Refrain

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your  
kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for  
justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the  
world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**      Congregation may be seated.

## Word

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

READING

Micah 6:1-8

back of bulletin

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit  
against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not  
want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers  
the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

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

PSALM

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak  
the truth from their heart;**

They do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the  
Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes  
against the innocent.

**Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.**

READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

back of bulletin

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the  
cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way  
God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and  
suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for  
believers.*

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

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 142

***Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?***

***You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

\*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

back of bulletin

*The Gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

*After the reading:* P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**  
*Congregation may be seated.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Tim Scott, SAM

HYMN OF THE DAY

***Blest are They***

ELW 728

\*APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW page 104

**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.**

WE GATHER OUR OFFERING

\*OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able.*

ELW 182

***Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.***

***Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.***

***Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.***

***Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.***

\*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray together . . .

**C: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*After each petition:* P: Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **C: Amen.**

*Meal*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

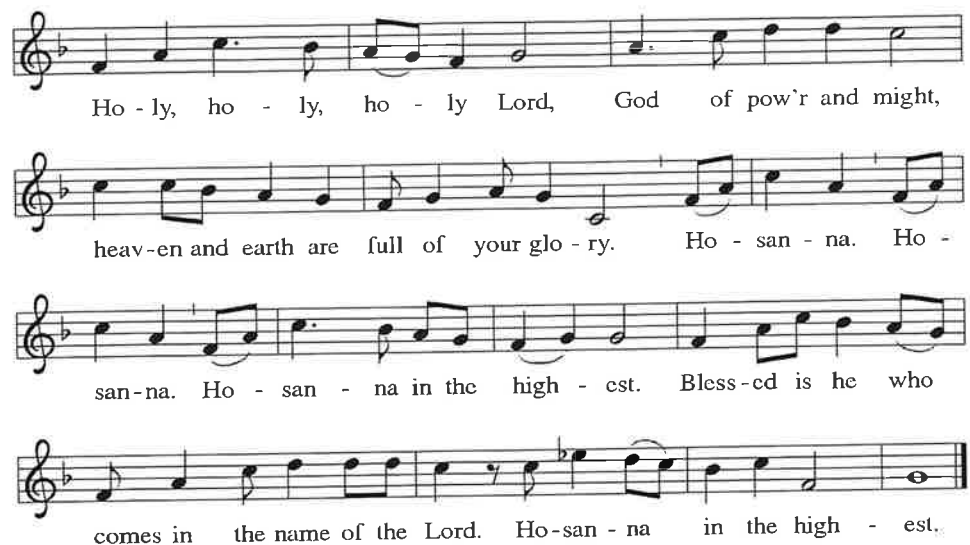
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





#### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.  
 May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
 Bring the gift of peace on earth. **C: Come, Holy Spirit.**  
 P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
 Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

#### \*LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
 Come to the table; taste and see.

*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.*

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

***Lamb of God  
 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service***

ELW, page 146

ELW 712

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

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

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending*

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BLESSING**

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

***Day by Day***

**ELW 790**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**