



... the bridegroom came,  
**AND THOSE WHO WERE READY**  
went with him into the  
wedding banquet ...

Matthew 25:10, NRSV

**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world—not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Amos in the Old Testament proclaiming the day of the Lord, to Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of His faithfulness, His continued care and providence, and His assurance that when that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

703 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

#### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

#### Opening Sentences

Amos 5:18, 20; 1 Thess 4:13, 16; Matt 25:6, 10

**P** Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you?

**C** **Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?**

**P** But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

**C** **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.**

**P** At midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!"

**C** **The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.**

## **Confession and Absolution** Amos 5:24; 1 Thess 4:17–18; Matt 25:13

- P** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- P** Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.
- C** **We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.**
- P** As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.
- C** **We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.**
- P** As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.
- C** **We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.**
- P** But let justice run down like water,
- C** **And righteousness like a mighty stream.**
- P** And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- C** **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**
- P** In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called 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.
- C** **Amen.**

# ✠ The Service of the Word ✠

## Introit

Psalm 84:1, 9-12

- P** How lovely is Your tabernacle,  
**C** **O LORD of hosts!**  
**P** O God, behold our shield,  
**C** **And look upon the face of Your anointed.**  
**P** For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.  
**C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**  
**P** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory;  
**C** **No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.**  
**P** O LORD of hosts,  
**C** **Blessed is the man who trusts in You!**  
**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
**C** **And to the Holy Spirit**  
**P** As it was in the beginning  
**C** **Is now and will be forever. Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final whole note.

## Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of  
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, You  
A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord, At

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in treble clef. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of quarter and eighth notes. The notes are simple and clear, matching the lyrics below.

heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor-ship  
 bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of  
 God's right hand in maj-es - ty most high: Who, with the  
 You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al -  
 God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, Re - ceive our  
 Spir - it wor-shipped and a - dored, With all the  
 might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
 prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
 heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

### Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...  
 ... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

Amos 5:18-24

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. <sup>19</sup> It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! <sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup> "I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. <sup>23</sup> Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. <sup>24</sup> But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.

# Psalm of the Day

Psalm 70

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
- C** **Make haste to help me, O LORD!**
- P** Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life;
- C** **Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt.**
- P** Let them be turned back because of their shame,
- C** **Who say, “Aha, aha!”**
- P** Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
- C** **And let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!”**
- P** But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God!
- C** **You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.**

## Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

## Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are  
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the  
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

## Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

## Hymn

609 – Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

## Sermon Text

Matthew 25:1-13

<sup>1</sup> “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. <sup>6</sup> “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.



*Sermon*

**Prepared for the End**

## Offertory



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 Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -  
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

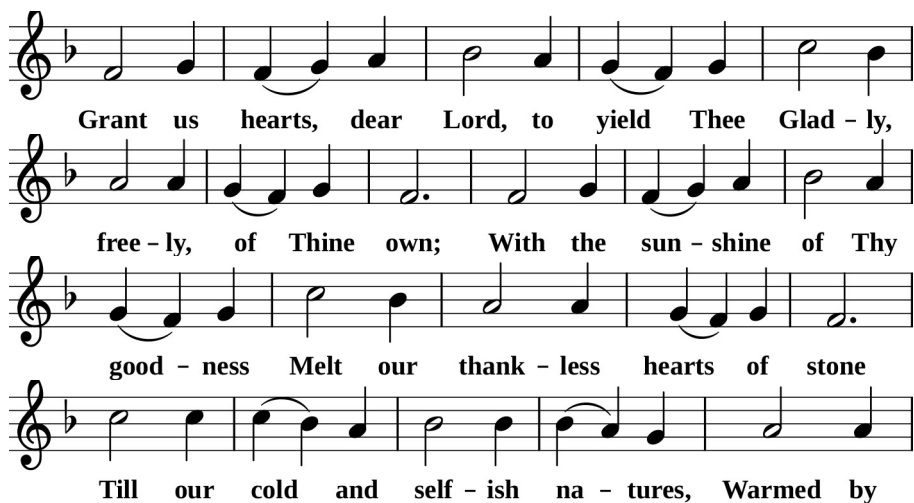
## Hymn

67 (1-4) – The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

## Offering

### Offering Hymn

442 (2)



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,  
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy  
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by



Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

## General Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.

### Benediction

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

**C** Amen.

### Hymn

446 – Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

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## ✠ Announcements ✠

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### Upcoming Schedule

November 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
November 19	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
November 23	10:15 am	Thanksgiving Day Worship Service
November 26	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

**Upcoming Meetings:** The following is our schedule of meetings through the annual meeting in January:

- **November 19** – Board of Education
- **December 3** – Board of Elders/Church Council
- **December 17** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 7** – Annual Voters' Meeting

**Nominations for Immanuel Professor Call:** The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Professor Mark Kranz at the end of the 2023-24 academic year. The position would be best served by someone who is teacher trained and has the ability to teach high school (if nominee is male or female) and college classes (if nominee is male) primarily in social studies (history/geography), elementary education methods, and other potential disciplines commencing with the 2024-25 academic year. Those submitting nominations would need to include information regarding the nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in technology expertise, extracurricular activities, or administrative positions. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 20, 2023 (letters postmarked November 10, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: [jeb6217@yahoo.com](mailto:jeb6217@yahoo.com).

**Nominations for ILC President:** The Board of Regents invites nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College. The current term of Professor Daniel Schierenbeck concludes on June 30, 2024. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the faculty of Immanuel

Lutheran College to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2024. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 20, 2023 (letters postmarked November 10, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

**2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Find more information and apply online: [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org)

**CLC Call News:** Pastor Luke Bernthal of St. Stephen's Lutheran of Mt. View, CA is still considering the call to Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato, MN. <> Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran of Vernon, British Columbia, is still considering the call to Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.

<b>Fruits of Faith</b>	<b>November 5, 2023</b>	<b>WH: 40</b>
Immanuel Home		\$1,453.25
Building Fund		\$50.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,483.25</b>

## ✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

November 13 – November 18

**Monday: Matthew 10:24-33** – Jesus warns His disciples that the unbelieving world will not treat them better than it treated Him. “So do not be afraid of them.” The victory which He won over the world will also be theirs, along with the heavenly Father’s tender care.

**Tuesday: 1 Timothy 4:4-11** – The apostle urges young Pastor Timothy to continue teaching the words of the faith and good teaching rather than the absurd myths of the unbelieving world.

**Wednesday: Psalm 85:6-13** – Remembering how God led and cared for His people of old, we can confidently call upon Him in every time of need (v7). “The Lord will indeed give good things” (v12).

**Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13** – Paul reminds the Thessalonian Christians of the Gospel Word which he and others (like Silas, Timothy, etc.) had brought to them, the apostolic word which they had received as the Word of God, which it is.

**Friday: John 15:18-25** – On the same night in which He was betrayed, Jesus reminds His disciples again that the world that hates Him will also hate them. At such times they should remember that they are in good company. The unbelieving world also hates God the Father and God the Son.

**Saturday: Romans 8:26-28** – When God’s children face opposition and persecution, the Spirit also helps them in their weakness, and all things work together for their good.