

Is anything too hard for the LORD?

Genesis 18:14



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

There is the laughter of pure joy, a sound of deep delight. But there is another kind: a short, sharp puff of air. It's the cynical chuckle of a heart that has been disappointed too many times, the laugh that says, "Yeah, right." In the heat of the day, Sarah laughed this very laugh. The divine promise she overheard was so far beyond hope, it felt absurd. But the LORD heard the secret whisper of her doubt. He met her not with a thunderbolt of wrath, but with a gentle, searching question—a question that challenges the impossible and gets the final, joyful word.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

537 – Every Morning Mercies New

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Dear friends in Christ, the Lord makes promises that challenge our human understanding, and in our weakness, our faith often falters. We are tempted to disbelieve His powerful Word, and this is sin. Yet God, in His great mercy, invites us to confess our doubts and failures. Therefore, let us come before Him with honest hearts, trusting that He will forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C **Most merciful God, we confess to You our many sins. We have doubted Your promises and trusted in our own understanding rather than the power of Your Word to overcome sin and death. We have been distracted by the cares of this world, neglecting the one thing needful: Your Word of truth. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For all our sins, we are truly sorry and we sincerely repent. For the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, and lead us from death to life. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, as a called servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of our 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.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

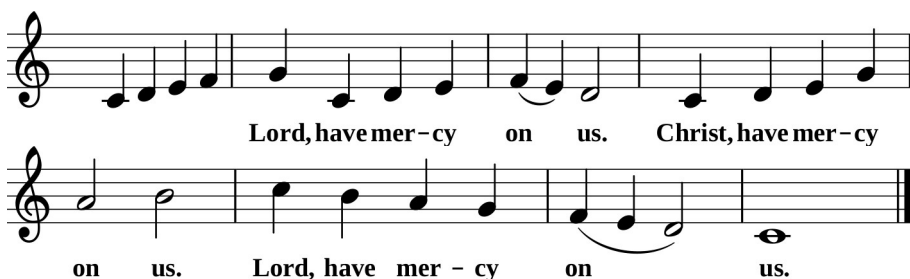
Introit

Psalms 119:57-60, 64

- P** You are my portion, O LORD;
C I have said that I would keep Your words.
P I entreated Your favor with my whole heart;
C Be merciful to me according to Your word.
P I thought about my ways,
C And turned my feet to Your testimonies.
P I made haste, and did not delay
C To keep Your commandments.
P The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy;
C Teach me Your statutes.
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.


Kyrie Eleison
LORD, HAVE MERCY

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
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 - shiped 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.



Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:21-29

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. ²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

VBS Song

Go Ye into the World

Psalm of the Day

Psalms 27:7-14

- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!
C **Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.**
P When You said, “Seek My face,”
C **My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”**
P Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger;
C **You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.**
P When my father and my mother forsake me,
C **Then the LORD will take care of me.**
P Teach me Your way, O LORD,
C **And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.**
P Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries;
C **For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.**
P I would have lost heart, unless I had believed
C **That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.**
P Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart;
C **Wait, I say, on the LORD!**

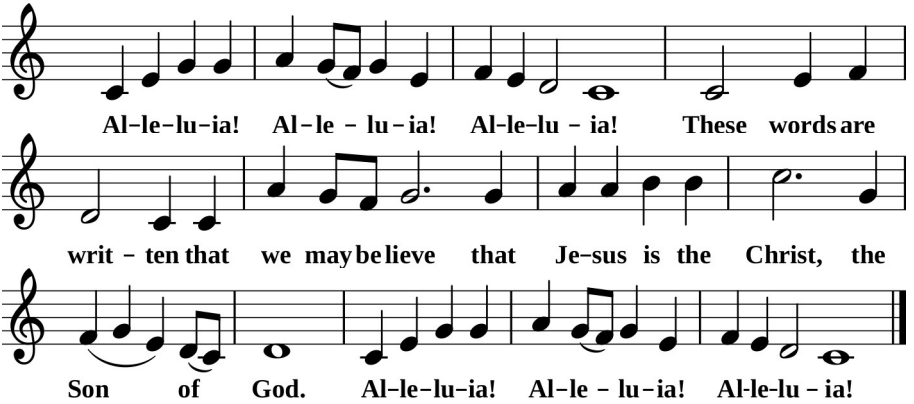
Gospel Reading

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Alleluia

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



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

396 – Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink

¹ Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. ² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, ³ and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. ⁴ Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant.” They said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes.” ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. ⁸ So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate. ⁹ Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” So he said, “Here, in the tent.” ¹⁰ And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. ¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” ¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”



Sermon

God's Word Gets the Last Laugh



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

521 – What God Ordains Is Always Good

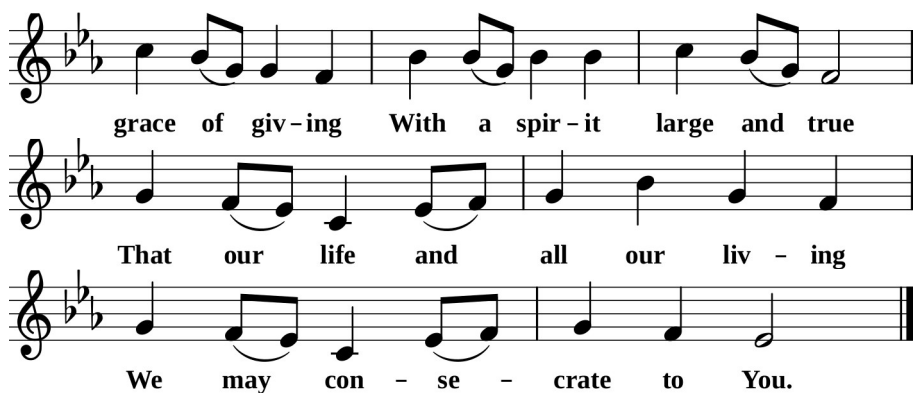
Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)



Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv - er Who with o - pen
heart and hand Bless - es free - ly as a riv - er
That re - fresh - es all the land. Grant us, then, the



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

409 – Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule		
July 20	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
July 27	10:15 am	Worship Service
August 3	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Education/Elders Meetings

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **August 3** – Education/Elders
- **September 7** – Trustees
- **October 5** – Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield. May the Lord strengthen their faith, grant them His peace, and assure them of His abiding presence.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: God poses a question to Himself: “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?”. In our sermon text for next Sunday, Genesis 18:17-33, God brings Abraham into a divine deliberation—a terrifying plan to judge a sinful world. What do you do when the Judge is about to act? Abraham’s response is a stunning lesson in bold prayer as he appeals to God’s own merciful character. Yet, we have a greater confidence. Next Sunday, we will see how Jesus, our perfect Intercessor, has accomplished what no negotiation ever could. He transforms our prayers, allowing us to “come boldly to the throne of grace,” not as defendants before a judge, but as beloved children approaching our Father.

A Joyful Journey on the VBS Express!: Our "Making Tracks" Vacation Bible School has reached its final station, and we are filled with gratitude for a wonderful week! We were blessed to share the Good News with 40 children, exploring how Jesus guides us through life and leads us safely to our heavenly home. It was a joy to see their faith and excitement each day.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our dedicated volunteers who poured their time, energy, and love into making this week a success. Your hard work created a fun and welcoming environment for the children to learn and grow.

We also want to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who supported our VBS through your generous offerings, delicious snack donations, and faithful prayers. Your contributions were a vital part of this ministry.

We pray that the seeds of faith planted in the hearts of these young ones will continue to grow and bear fruit for eternity. Thank you, everyone, for making this year's VBS a blessed journey!

Pastor Sauers on Vacation: Pastor Sauers will be away from **July 21-30** for vacation. Mr. Neil Bernthal will lead the worship service next Sunday. There will be **no Orlando service**, and the Winter Haven service will **not be live-streamed**. If you plan to worship online next Sunday, we encourage you to make use of services from our sister congregations in the CLC. Here are two recommended options:

- **Immanuel Lutheran Church – Mankato, MN**
Website: www.immanuelmankato.org
- **Messiah Lutheran Church – Eau Claire, WI**
Website: www.eauclairemessiah.com

Fruits of Faith		July 13, 2025	Attendance: WH – 40; ORL: 10	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>			<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>			<i>General Budget</i>	
\$166.25	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$1,333.75	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over	
\$36,093.64	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,270.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$42,000.00	Year to Date Need	\$1,884.68	Year to Date Need	
-\$5,906.36	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$614.68	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
	Building Fund	\$10.00	ILC Student Aid Fund	
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund	
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund	
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)	
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship	
\$50.00	VBS		ILC Tour Choir	
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest	

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

July 21-July 26, 2025

Monday - *Matthew 5:43-48*

Jesus calls upon us to go beyond loving our neighbor, as God also shows His love to both the evil and the good, and even sent His Son to die for the sins of the whole world.

Tuesday - *Acts 4:23-31*

After Peter and John are released, they report to their fellow-believers about being commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. The group prays for the strength to keep speaking!

Wednesday - *Judges 2:1-5*

The Angel of the LORD rebukes the Israelites for not driving out the people living in the promised land or tearing down their heathen altars. The Israelites weep (Bokim) and sacrifice to the LORD.

Thursday - *Judges 2:6-12*

The Israelites served the LORD during Joshua's life-time and after, until a generation arose who did not remember the true God. They turned to the gods of the heathen people around them.

Friday - *Lamentations 3:22-32*

Especially in hard times, the prophet reminds us of the tender mercies of our faithful LORD. In Him is hope and strength to refrain from complaining, and even to turn the other cheek.

Saturday - *Lamentations 3:33-40*

Remembering how God loves us will help us to realize that even the things that grieve us are meant to serve for our good. Let us examine our ways and return to the LORD, our God!

