



Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4, NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The world relentlessly asks, “Who is the greatest?” From playgrounds to workplaces, we are taught to climb and compete to prove our worth. But as we gather, our Lord offers a disarming answer to that question. He doesn’t point to a throne, but to a child. Jesus calls us away from the exhausting pursuit of power and invites us to find greatness in humble, trusting dependence on our Father. May our worship quiet our anxious hearts as we turn from our own striving to receive the grace of the Servant King.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

3 – Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Jeremiah 9:23-24, Philippians 2:5-6, 8

P Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

C But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me.”

P Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant.

C He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! When the disciples asked Jesus, “Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” their question echoes in our own hearts. We live in a world that measures worth by status and achievement, and our sinful nature desires to be first. But our Lord redefines greatness, placing a little child before us as the true measure in His kingdom. Therefore, let us examine ourselves in His Word, confess our pride, and seek His grace to embrace true, childlike humility.

C Most merciful God, we confess we are by nature sinful. We have followed our own ambitious hearts rather than our Savior's humble path, seeking our own glory instead of Yours. We have envied the powerful, overlooked the lowly, and desired to be served rather than to serve. For our pride, jealousy, and failure to love, we are truly sorry and repent. For the sake of Your Son's suffering and death, be gracious and merciful to us.

P Upon this your confession, as a called servant of the Word and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself to death on a cross for you, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who did not grasp for greatness now washes you clean and makes you truly great in the eyes of your Father in heaven.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

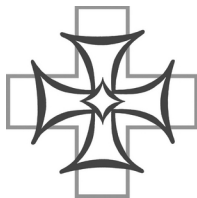
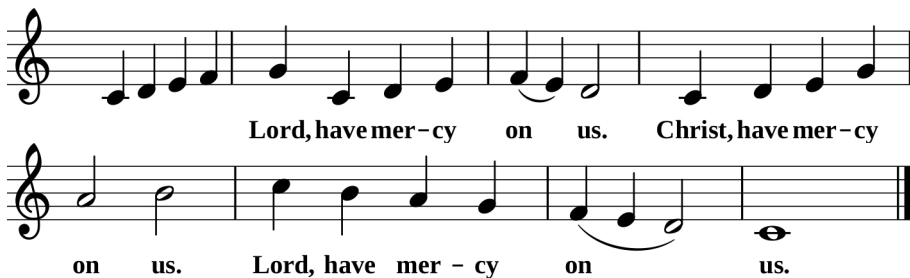
Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



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.

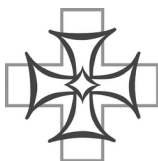
C And also with you.

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.



Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 78:1-7

- P** Give ear, O my people, to my law;
C **Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**
P I will open my mouth in a parable;
C **I will utter dark sayings of old,**
P Which we have heard and known,
C **And our fathers have told us.**
P We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,
C **And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.**
P For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel,
C **Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children;**
P That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born,
C **That they may arise and declare them to their children,**
P That they may set their hope in God,
C **And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments.**

Children's Anthem

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Epistle Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Alleluia

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



Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

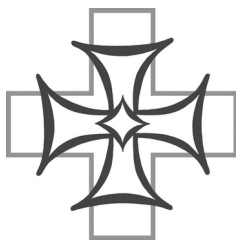
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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

388 – Just as I Am, without One Plea



Sermon Text

Matthew 18:1-5

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.



Sermon

Greatness Redefined

Offertory

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of five staves of music in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple, using quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

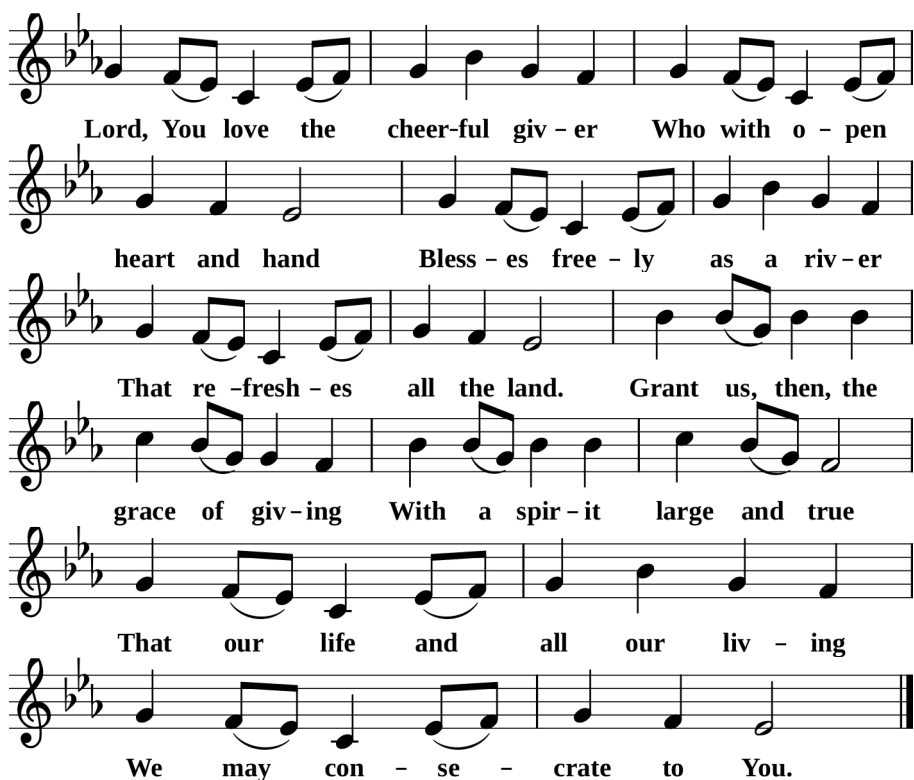
Hymn

370 – My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

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
grace of giv - ing With a spir - it large and true
That our life and all our liv - ing
We may con - se - crate to You.

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

800 – Go My Children, with My Blessing

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✝ Announcements ✝

Schedule		
August 24	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
		Christian Education Sunday (Children Sing)
August 31	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
September 7	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Trustees

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

- **September 7** – Trustees
- **October 5** – Church Council
- **November 2** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting/Education/Elders

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.

Sermon Series: The Upside-Down Kingdom: What if everything the world teaches about success, peace, and power is upside down? As Jesus journeys to the cross, He turns worldly wisdom on its head—teaching that the last will be first, true peace causes division, and the way up is actually down.

Join us as we explore “*The Upside-Down Kingdom*.” Each week, we’ll be challenged and comforted by Jesus’ surprising truths that expose the shallowness of the world and invite us into the eternal logic of God’s grace.



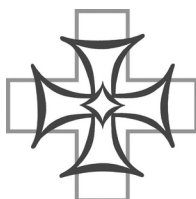
Series Schedule:

- **August 17** – A Peace That Divides (*Luke 12:49–53*)
- **August 24** (Education Sun.) – Greatness Redefined (*Matthew 18:1–5*)
- **August 31** – The Way Up Is Down (*Luke 14:1, 7–14*)
- **September 7** – Gaining by Losing (*Luke 14:25–35*)
- **September 14** – The Value of the Lost (*Luke 15:1–10*)
- **September 21** – Heavenly Shrewdness (*Luke 16:1–13*)
- **September 28** – The Great Reversal (*Luke 16:19–31*)
- **October 5** – The Power of Small Faith (*Luke 17:1–10*)

Come and hear how the Gospel flips our expectations and reshapes our lives.

CLC Call News: Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

Fruits of Faith August 10, 2025		Attendance: WH – 37; ORL – 15	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>	
\$1,639.75	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need
+\$139.75	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over
\$42,814.39	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,370.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$48,000.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,153.92	Year to Date Need
-\$5,185.61	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$783.92	Year to Date (+/-)
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund
\$10.00	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)
\$45.00	Benevolence Fund		CLC Kinship
	VBS		ILC Tour Choir
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

August 25 - August 30, 2025

Monday - *John 5:19-21*

Jesus answers those who claim He breaks God's sabbath law. "Amen, Amen," this is truth: the Son does not act on His own, but does exactly what the Father does.

Tuesday - *John 5:22-24*

The Father judges only through the Son, so the Son has equal honor with the Father. "Amen, Amen," this is truth: those who hear my word and believe Him who sent Me have eternal life already.

Wednesday - *John 5:25-29*

"Amen, Amen," this is true: now is the time to listen to the Son of God and live! Don't just be amazed, but believe! A time is coming when all in the graves will come forth to live or be condemned.

Thursday - *Acts 8:1-8*

After Stephen's death, a persecution breaks out, led in part by Saul of Tarsus. He hunts down believers to imprison them. God uses this turmoil to spread His saving Word!

Friday - *1 Samuel 24:2-23*

King Saul is hunting down David and his men, trying to prevent David from becoming the next king. David does not return evil for evil, and Saul relents for a time.

Saturday - *Jeremiah 8:4-9*

The Lord does not desire the death of the wicked, but pleads with His people to listen, repent, and live! Even migrating animals know the seasons, but the people cannot see where they are going!

