

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a story that might make us uncomfortable. He introduces us to a dishonest manager facing ruin, whose solution to the crisis is both shrewd and self-serving. The final outcome is not at all what we would expect. This puzzling parable challenges our assumptions and pushes us to look deeper for the lesson. Can a tale about corruption actually point us toward heavenly wisdom? As we ready ourselves for worship, let's prepare to hear this strange story and discover the profound truth God reveals within it.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

395 (1-2, 7-8) – O God, Thou Faithful God

#### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

#### Confession and Absolution

**P** Beloved in the Lord! The Holy Scriptures call us to be children of light who live wisely in this present age. Yet as we examine our lives in God's Word, we find our priorities inverted. We are diligent for the temporary treasures of this world, but careless with the eternal treasures of heaven. Therefore, let us humble ourselves before almighty God, confessing our sins and imploring His mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, we confess we are sinful by nature and have disobeyed You in thought, word, and deed. We have loved Your gifts more than You, the Giver, and failed as stewards of all You have entrusted to us. In our greed and anxiety, we have ignored our neighbor and served ourselves instead of You. For these sins, we deserve Your judgment. But for the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and by Your Holy Spirit, lead us to amend our sinful lives.

**P** Upon this your confession, as a called servant of the Word, I announce God's grace to you. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the one Mediator, gave Himself as a ransom for all, paying your debt and purchasing for you the true riches of heaven. In His stead and by His command, 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 ✠

## 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

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

## 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-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 8:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who swallow up the needy, And make the poor of the land fail, <sup>5</sup> Saying: “When will the New Moon be past, That we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, That we may trade wheat? Making the ephah small and the shekel large, Falsifying the scales by deceit, <sup>6</sup> That we may buy the poor for silver, And the needy for a pair of sandals— Even sell the bad wheat?”

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their works.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 113

**P** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

**C** Praise the name of the LORD!

**P** Blessed be the name of the LORD

**C** From this time forth and forevermore!

**P** From the rising of the sun to its going down

**C** The LORD's name is to be praised.

**P** The LORD is high above all nations,

**C** His glory above the heavens.

**P** Who is like the LORD our God,

**C** Who dwells on high,

**P** Who humbles Himself to behold

**C** The things that are in the heavens and in the earth?

**P** He raises the poor out of the dust,

**C** And lifts the needy out of the ash heap,

**P** That He may seat him with princes—

**C** With the princes of His people.

**P** He grants the barren woman a home,

**C** Like a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

## Epistle Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. <sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, <sup>7</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. <sup>8</sup> I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; <sup>9</sup> in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, <sup>10</sup> but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. <sup>11</sup> Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. <sup>12</sup> And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. <sup>13</sup> For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup> And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. <sup>15</sup> Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

## 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

347 (1-2, 5-6) – Jesus, Priceless Treasure

## Sermon Text

Luke 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup> He also said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. <sup>2</sup> So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’ <sup>3</sup> “Then the steward said within himself, ‘What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.’ <sup>5</sup> “So he called every one of his master’s debtors to him, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ So he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ So he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup> “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. <sup>10</sup> He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. <sup>11</sup> Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”



*Sermon*

## Heavenly Shrewdness

### 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

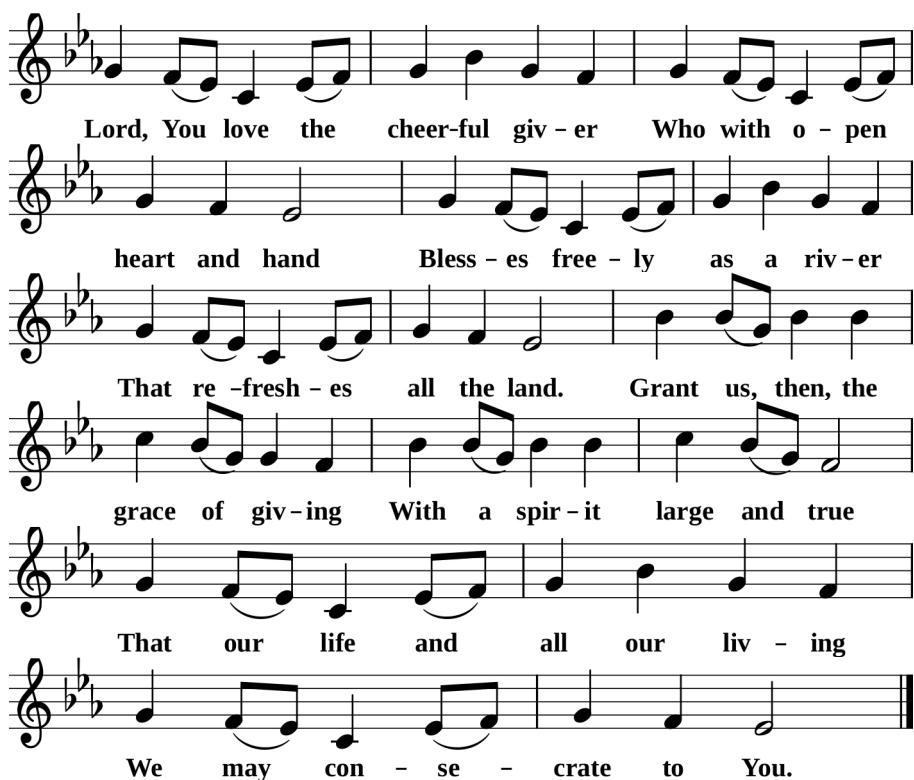
430 (1-4, 8) – What Is the World to Me

### 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

49 – Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast

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✝ Announcements ✝

Schedule		
September 21	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
September 22-24		Pastor in Eau Claire for Mission Board meetings.
September 26	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
September 28	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
October 5	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
		Mission Festival (Children Sing)
	11:30 am	Fellowship Meal
	12:15 pm	Church Council

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

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

**Pastor Away for Meetings:** Pastor Sauers will be in Eau Claire, WI, from Monday, September 22, through Wednesday, September 24, for CLC Mission Board meetings. For any pastoral needs during this time, he can be reached by phone at (920) 602-3242.

**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.



**Remaining Series Schedule:**

- **September 28** – The Great Reversal (*Luke 16:19–31*)

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

**Mission Festival & Potluck:** Join us on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate our annual Mission Festival. We will give thanks to God for the proclamation of the Gospel at home and abroad. Following the worship service, please join us for a potluck meal. Bring a dish to share as we enjoy fellowship together.

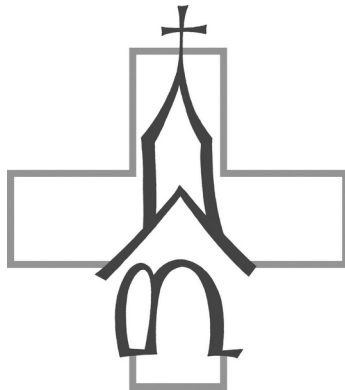
**Learning with Littles:** We're looking forward to our next session of Learning with Littles this **Friday 9/26 at 10:30 am!** Our session theme will be “Fall Fun.”

Thank you SO much to everyone who has donated snacks and especially to those who are willing to assist as greeters on Fridays. It's a growing program and we are blessed to have people helping out. We appreciate everyone's support of this ministry and especially your prayers!

**Southeastern Women's Retreat:** Registration is now open for the Southeastern Women's Retreat, to be held in Sherrills Ford, NC, February 13-15, 2026. The theme this year is "Sisters in Christ". To register, please head over to [women'sretreat.clclutheran.net](http://women'sretreat.clclutheran.net), click on SOUTHEAST, and scroll down to the link for the online form. If you would like to register over email or you have any questions, reach out to [southeasternwomensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:southeasternwomensretreat@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

**CLC News:** Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA, has accepted the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

<b>Fruits of Faith      September 14, 2025</b>		<b>Attendance: WH – 30; ORL – 9</b>	
<b><u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u></b>		<b><u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u></b>	
<b><i>General Budget</i></b>		<b><i>General Budget</i></b>	
\$10,689.00	General Budget	\$105.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need
+\$9,189.00	-Under / +Over	+\$37.69	-Under / +Over
\$58,972.57	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,675.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$55,500.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,490.47	Year to Date Need
+\$3,472.57	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$815.47	Year to Date (+/-)
<b><i>Non-Budgetary</i></b>		<b><i>Non-Budgetary</i></b>	
	Building Fund	\$20.00	ILC Student Aid Fund
\$10.00	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund		CLC Kinship
	VBS		ILC Tour Choir
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest



# ✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

September 22 – September 27, 2025

## **Monday** - *Mark 4:26-28*

God's ruling hand does not depend on our effort or understanding. He causes the farmer's seed to grow and bear fruit. He also brings the greater spiritual blessings of His rule to His people.

## **Tuesday** - *Acts 11:1-18*

Peter carefully explains how God brought him to see that "repentance that results in life" (verse 18) is intended for both Jews and Gentiles. When they heard him out, the others praised God with him.

## **Wednesday** - *2 Samuel 23:1-4*

The last words of David, speaking by the Spirit of God, hold before his people the shining righteousness of the Rock of Israel (verse 3). Like sunshine after rain, the LORD brings life to His own.

## **Thursday** - *2 Samuel 23:5-7*

Although David confesses his own unworthiness, he rejoices in the everlasting covenant with God that brings salvation and life to those who deserve to be thrown away.

## **Friday** - *Proverbs 3:1-8*

What better gift can a father give to his son than long days, peace, prosperity, mercy, and truth? All these are gifts from God to the children who learn to fear and trust in Him above everything.

## **Saturday** - *Proverbs 3:9-16*

Wealth is not the goal in life; it is a gift of God. But the gifts of wisdom and understanding are even greater than silver and gold, and teach us to honor the LORD with our wealth (verse 9).