

**Behold!
The Lamb of God
who takes away the sin
of the world!**

John 1:29



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

When nations or sports teams select a mascot, they invariably choose symbols of strength, ferocity, or majesty. Eagles soar; lions roar; bears intimidate. No one rallies behind a symbol of weakness. From a human perspective, a lamb is a disastrous choice for a leader—defenseless, silent, and destined for slaughter. Yet, when John the Baptist unveils the Savior of the world in our Gospel lesson, he does not point to a conquering King, but to a Lamb. Why would God choose what appears to be the "Worst Mascot in History"? As we gather to worship, we prepare our hearts to behold the Lamb of God and discover why this seemingly weak title is the only one that can save us.

† Preparation for Worship †

Hymn

367 – Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 60:1; 49:6b; John 1:29

P Arise, shine; For your light has come!
C **And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.**
P I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,
C **That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.**
P The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,
C **"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**

Confession and Absolution

P The world seeks a savior of iron and gold, a conqueror to break the nations. We naturally gravitate toward symbols of strength and dominance. Yet, the prophet pointed not to a lion or a bear, but to a Lamb. Since our hearts are captured by worldly power, we overlook the power of God displayed in sacrifice. Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father, acknowledging our pride and failure to follow the Lamb.

C Almighty God, we confess that we are captivated by the strength of this world. We desire power, prestige, and victory on our own terms. We are often ashamed of weakness and despise suffering. In our pride, we have looked for salvation in our own might rather than in the humility of Your Son. Forgive us for turning away from the Lamb of God. Wash us in His blood, and grant us eyes to see that true strength is found in Your mercy and true life is found in His sacrifice.

P God chose the foolish and weak to shame the wise and mighty. Behold the Lamb of God! He has taken away the sin of the world—He has taken away your sin. Upon this confession, as a called servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and 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.

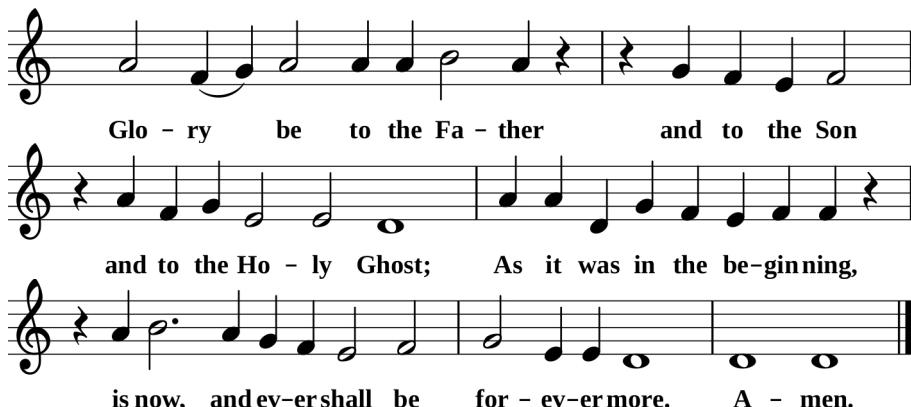
C Amen.

† The Service of the Word †

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

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

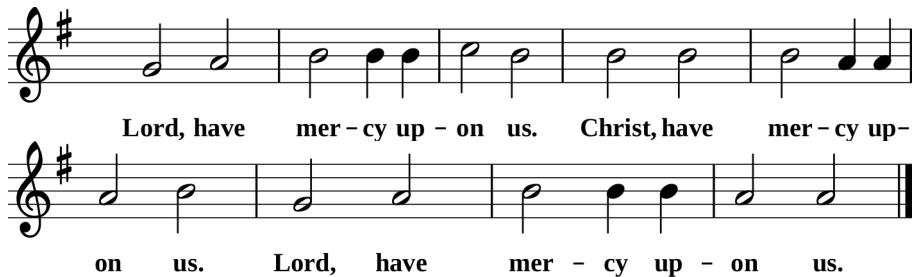


Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.



Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



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

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)



All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

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.

¹ “Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. ² And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me.” ³ “And He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.’ ⁴ Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward is with the LORD, And my work with my God.’ ” ⁵ “And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), ⁶ Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ” ⁷ Thus says the LORD, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the LORD who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 40:1-11

P I waited patiently for the LORD;
C **And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.**
P He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay,
C **And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.**
P He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God;
C **Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.**
P Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust,
C **And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.**
P Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order;
C **If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.**
P Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened.
C **Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.**
P Then I said, “Behold, I come;
C **In the scroll of the book it is written of me.**
P I delight to do Your will, O my God,
C **And Your law is within my heart.”**

- ¶ I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly;
- ¶ **C** **Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know.**
- ¶ I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation;
- ¶ **C** **I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.**
- ¶ Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD;
- ¶ **C** **Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, ² To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, ⁵ that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

394 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Sermon Text

John 1:29-41

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” ³² And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).



Sermon

The Worst Mascot in History

Offertory

>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Your
presence, and take not Your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-
store un-to me the joy of Your sal-va-tion; and up-
hold me with Your free spir-it. A-men.

Hymn

652 – I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)

1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To Our
2 To Thee, from whom we all de-rive Our
Thee, all praise and glo-ry to be. How Oh,
Thee life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. How Oh,
shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv-est all?
may we ev-er with Thee live, Who giv-est all!

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

341 – Crown Him with Many Crowns

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† Announcements †

Upcoming Schedule		
January 18	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
January 23	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
January 25	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
February 1	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Board of Education/Board of Elders Meetings

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

- **February 1** – Education/Elders
- **March 1** – Trustees/Church Council
- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting

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.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Every fisherman loves to boast about the "catch of the day." But next Sunday, on the shores of Galilee, we will witness a different kind of fishing trip. In Matthew 4:12-25, Jesus approaches humble laborers with a life-changing command: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." As we gather to worship next week, we will see that the true Master Fisherman isn't looking for trophies, but for souls. Come and discover how the Light has dawned in the darkness, and how the Lord's gracious net has not only caught us for salvation but commissions us for His service.

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's retreat.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. We hope to see you there!

National Women's Retreat Coming in January!: Before your 2026 calendar begins to fill up, we want you to mark your calendars and get ready to Press Pause with women across the country!

- **What:** Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat 2026
- **When:** Saturday, January 31, 2026 // 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **How:** Join us virtually via Zoom
- **Cost:** Free event – all are welcome!
- **Register now:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>

Last Chance to Apply for the 2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip: The application deadline for the 2026 Mission Helper Trip to Africa is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by Sunday, January 18, 2026. There are still spots remaining, so please apply soon. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

CLC Call News: Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Ev. Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has received the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has returned the vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has returned the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Mr. Peter Reim has returned the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN.

Fruits of Faith		January 11, 2026		Attendance: WH – 25; ORL – 11			
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>					
<u>General Budget</u>		<u>General Budget</u>					
\$1,310.00	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget				
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need				
-\$52.00	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over				
\$2,851.00	Year to Date Offerings	\$0.00	Year to Date Offerings				
\$2,724.00	Year to Date Need	\$134.62	Year to Date Need				
+\$127.00	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$134.62	Year to Date (+/-)				
<u>Non-Budgetary</u>		<u>Non-Budgetary</u>					
\$115.00	Property Improvement	\$10.00	ILC Student Aid Fund				
\$85.00	Benevolence Fund						

✚ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✚

January 19 – January 24, 2026

Monday - *John 2:1-11*

Jesus' glory is revealed through His provision of wine for a wedding banquet. His gifts in little Cana are not only generous (verse 6), but they are also of the highest quality (verse 10).

Tuesday - *Romans 12:6-16a*

Our faith influences our use of the gifts which God has given to us, for faith works by love. Our love for the Lord will lead us also to love those for whom He died and to hate what is evil.

Wednesday - *Deuteronomy 18:15-19*

Like Moses, the promised Prophet would be a true human and Mediator, but not just for Israel. He would bring mankind to the God of forgiveness and salvation!

Thursday - *Psalm 16*

The one whom God guards does not chase after another god, but has a glorious inheritance that brings gladness to the heart. This is the glory which Christ shares with us!

Friday - *Psalm 14*

Like the fools who deny God's existence, by ourselves we deserve nothing but punishment from Him. But the LORD restores His people and provides salvation for them, as He promised of old! (verse 7)

Saturday - *Luke 19:1-10*

The Lord's saving glory is seen as He passes through Jericho. Jesus seeks out Zacchaeus, one who helps the Romans exploit Israel, and He brings salvation also to this son of Abraham (verse 9).