

“Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”
Acts 7:56



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Have you ever covered your ears to block out a sound you simply couldn't stand? A screeching alarm, a loud siren, or perhaps a difficult truth? By nature, our sinful hearts prefer to shut out the voice of our holy God. We eagerly reach for "spiritual earplugs" whenever His Word challenges our pride or exposes our guilt. Yet, God loves us too much to leave us in the deadly silence of our own rebellion. In the triumphant joy of this Easter season, we celebrate a Savior whose voice cannot be silenced by the hostility of the world or even by the grave. As we gather this morning, may the Holy Spirit unstop our ears to hear the unstoppable, life-giving Word of Christ!

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

16 – Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 95:7-8; James 1:21; Hebrews 4:12

P O Lord, open my lips,

C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P Today, if you will hear His voice:

C "Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

P Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness,

C And receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

P For the word of God is living and powerful,

C And is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Confession and Absolution

P Dear friends in Christ, we are called by God to be living stones, built up as a spiritual house. Yet, by our own sinful nature, we often stumble at the Word. Like those who fashion spiritual earplugs to block out what they do not wish to hear, we tune out God's Law when it convicts us, and we resist His Spirit when we seek to justify ourselves. Let us therefore draw near to our heavenly Father, confessing our spiritual deafness and pleading for His mercy for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ.

- P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden,
- C** we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have been stiff-necked, turning a deaf ear to Your truth. We have resisted the Holy Spirit by ignoring Your commands and failing to love our neighbors. Rather than desiring the pure milk of Your Word, we have stopped our ears and stumbled in disobedience. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Remove our spiritual earplugs, forgive our sins, and open our lips, that we may boldly declare Your praise.
- P** God has not left us in our spiritual deafness, but has spoken His final, unstoppable word of grace to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through His death on the cross and His victorious resurrection, the Word made flesh has conquered our sin and removed our guilt. Therefore, 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.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of text. The lyrics are: "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.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:1-10

¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. ⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” ⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 146

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD;
- C** **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P** Do not put your trust in princes,
- C** **Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.**
- P** His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;
- C** **In that very day his plans perish.**
- P** Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
- C** **Whose hope is in the LORD his God,**
- P** Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them;
- C** **Who keeps truth forever,**
- P** Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry.
- C** **The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.**
- P** The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down;
- C** **The LORD loves the righteous.**
- P** The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow;
- C** **But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.**
- P** The LORD shall reign forever—
- C** **Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

296 – Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

Sermon Text

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

¹ Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. ⁷ Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. ⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. ² And he said, ⁵¹ “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, ⁵³ who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.” ⁵⁴ When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; ⁵⁸ and they cast him out of the city and

stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Sermon *Spiritual Earplugs and the Un-silenced Word*

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
pres-ence, 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

293 – O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace

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.

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -
oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

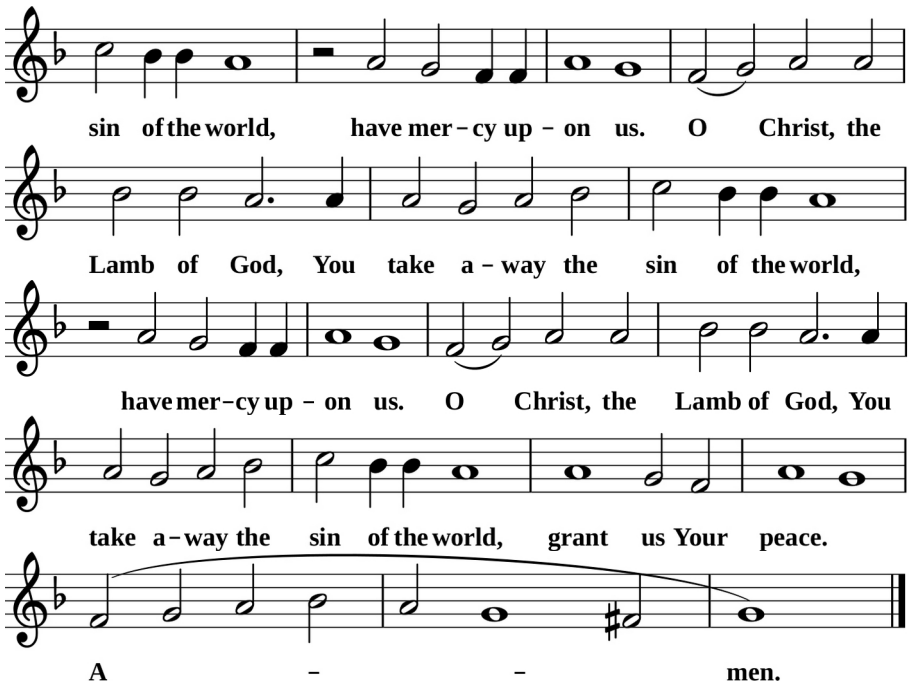
P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C Amen.

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, the
 Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world,
 have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
 take a - way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
 A - - - men.

Distribution

Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!



O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry
be to the Father 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.

Thanksgiving

- P** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
- C** For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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

261 – Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

May 3	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Board of Education/Elders Meetings
May 8	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
May 10	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
May 17	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service/ILS Promotion Sunday
May 19	11:30 am	ILS Last Day of School (Early Release)
	6:30 pm	ILS End of Year Program

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

- **May 3** – Education/Elders
- **June 7** – Trustees/Church Council
- **July 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: Have you ever witnessed the perfect "mic drop"—when someone delivers the final, unanswerable word that silences all opposition? In a world that opposes us, Satan constantly tries to speak condemnation over our lives. But next Sunday, we will hear how Jesus delivered the ultimate, eternal final word. Based on 1 Peter 3:13-22, our sermon theme is "Christ's Cosmic Mic Drop." Having suffered "the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God," the resurrected Savior marched straight to the spirits in prison to proclaim His absolute victory over hell itself! Join us as we explore how Christ's triumph and the saving waters of baptism leave the devil completely speechless and secure our eternal hope.

CLC Women's Retreat West: Join Grace Ev. Lutheran Church (Valentine, NE) for the Women's Retreat West, happening September 18-20, 2026, at the Arrowood Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD. This year's sessions will focus on Words to Others, Words to Yourself, and Words to the Lord. Come enjoy a refreshing weekend filled with Bible study, heart-opening conversations, and wonderful fellowship activities.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." – Psalm 19:14

For more information, please visit: <https://womensretreat.clclutheran.net/womens-retreat>

CLC News: Pastor Jim Naumann of Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND, has received and accepted the vacancy call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND. <> ILC Education Program Graduate Mr. Orrin Hanel has accepted the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received and accepted the vacancy call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. <> Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

Fruits of Faith		April 26, 2026	Attendance: WH – 32; ORL – 10	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,288.50	General Budget	\$100.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$73.50	-Under / +Over	+\$32.69	-Under / +Over	
\$21,284.22	Year to Date Offerings	\$805.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$23,154.00	Year to Date Need	\$1,144.27	Year to Date Need	
-\$1,869.78	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$339.27	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
\$2,045.00	Benevolence	\$10.00	ILC Student Ait	
\$105.00	Property Improvement			

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

May 4 – May 9, 2026

Monday - John 16:5-15

Even before going to the cross, Jesus promises to send the Counselor. He, the Spirit of truth, will show the truth about the world's sin and will glorify the world's Savior (verse 14).

Tuesday - James 1:16-21

All good things come from God above, especially our faith in Jesus, which became ours through the word of truth. May we always humbly receive that word, which is able to save our souls.

Wednesday - Isaiah 12:1-6

The prophet Isaiah looks forward to the day of the LORD'S deliverance of His people and sings God's praises in advance! Surely God is the source of their salvation, His praise the theme of their song!

Thursday - Psalm 126

If Israel can rejoice in deliverance from captivity, surely God's people are filled even more with laughter and shouts of joy over deliverance by Christ from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Friday - Psalm 82

God remains the God of representatives who wield His power on the earth (gods). He is the Judge of the judges whose function is to rescue the weak and the needy (verse 4), as He did in the resurrection!

Saturday - 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

The message of Easter is new life, for in Christ we are all a new creation. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Let us then be reconciled to Him and live for Him!

