

For Christ also suffered once for sins,
the just for the unjust, that He might
bring us to God, being put to death in
the flesh but made alive by the Spirit...

1 Peter 3:18



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

www.WinterHavenLutheran.com

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

As We Gather

We all know what it's like to want the last word in an argument. We want to make our point so clearly that there's simply nothing left to say—a true "mic drop" moment. But when we face the realities of our own sin, guilt, and the daily struggles of life, it can often feel like the world is the one getting the last word against us. This morning, the Apostle Peter reminds us that Jesus already had the final say. When He conquered death, He made an unanswerable declaration of victory that still echoes today. As we prepare to look at "Christ's Cosmic Mic Drop" in 1 Peter 3, take a deep breath. The argument is over, and your Savior has won.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

528 (1-2, 6, 15) – If God Himself Be for Me

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

1 Peter 3:18, 22; John 14:19; Philippians 2:9-10

- P** He who was put to death in the flesh has been made alive by the Spirit.
- C** **He has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God.**
- P** Angels and authorities and powers have been made subject to Him.
- C** **Because He lives, we will live also.**
- P** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
- C** **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** In Christ Jesus, the final victory is already won. He has descended to the very depths to declare His triumph to the spiritual forces of darkness, and He has ascended to the right hand of the Father, subjecting all powers to Himself. Yet, we often live as though the battle is still in doubt. We give in to the fears and threats of this world, we fail to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts, and our consciences accuse us of our many sins. Let us therefore draw near to our victorious King, confessing our sins and seeking His merciful pardon.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Instead of sanctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts, we have allowed the fears and threats of this world to intimidate us. We have often remained silent when called to give a defense for the hope that is within us. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered for our sins, the just for the unjust, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Christ Jesus suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. Having been made alive by the Spirit, He has conquered the grave, silenced the accuser, and now rules over all authorities and powers. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, 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.

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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.

First Reading

Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. ¹⁷ Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Then

certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? ²⁰ For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹ For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. ²² Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 66:8-20

- P** Oh, bless our God, you peoples!
- C** **And make the voice of His praise to be heard,**
- P** Who keeps our soul among the living,
- C** **And does not allow our feet to be moved.**
- P** For You, O God, have tested us;
- C** **You have refined us as silver is refined.**
- P** You brought us into the net;
- C** **You laid affliction on our backs.**
- P** You have caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;
- C** **But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.**

- P** I will go into Your house with burnt offerings;
C **I will pay You my vows,**
P Which my lips have uttered
C **And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble.**
P I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, with the sweet aroma of rams;
C **I will offer bulls with goats.**
P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
C **And I will declare what He has done for my soul.**
P I cried to Him with my mouth,
C **And He was extolled with my tongue.**
P If I regard iniquity in my heart,
C **The Lord will not hear.**
P But certainly God has heard me;
C **He has attended to the voice of my prayer.**
P Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer,
C **Nor His mercy from me!**

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Alleluia

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

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the



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

258 – Lord of Our Life, and God of Our Salvation

Sermon Text

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. ²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Sermon

Christ's Cosmic Mic Drop

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.

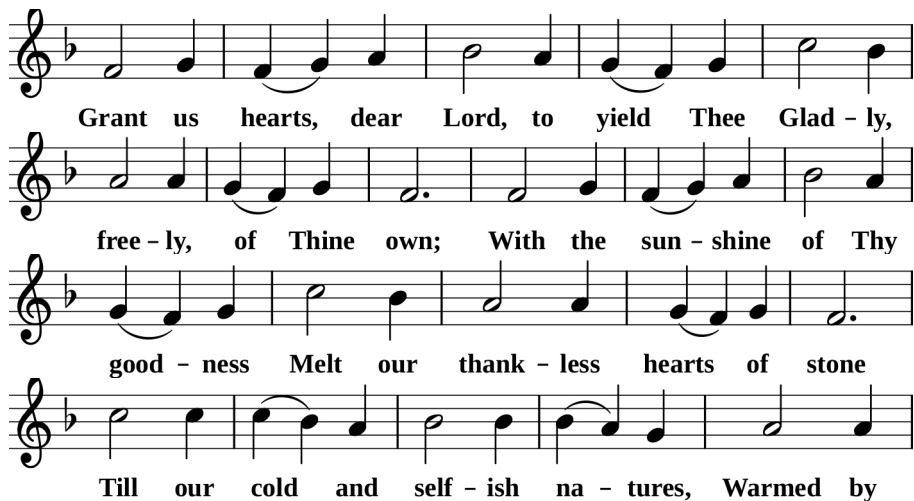
Hymn

473 (1-2, 4-5) – The Church's One Foundation

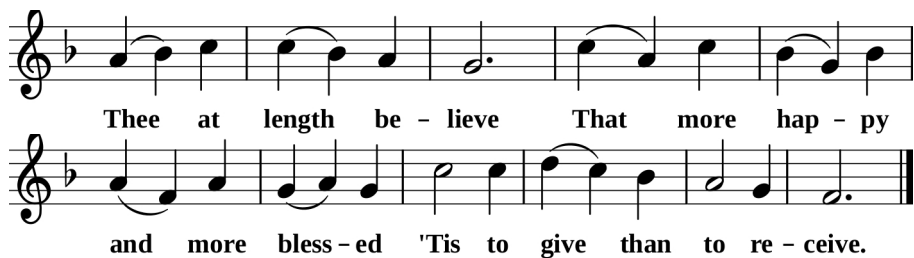
Offering

Offering Hymn

442 (2)



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by



Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

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

387 (1, 7-8, 10) – Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

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
May 24	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

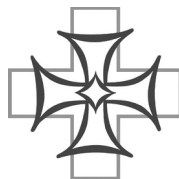
Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **June 7** – Trustees/Church Council
- **July 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **August 2** – 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.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: When a loved one moves away, their absence leaves a painful void. The disciples felt that ache as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds. We often think of the Ascension as Christ's departure, leaving us to fend for ourselves. But next Sunday, we will discover a glorious paradox: Jesus ascended not to be absent, but to be universally present. In our sermon text from Ephesians 1:15-23, we see our Savior seated "far above all principality and power." He now reigns as head over all things specifically for the church—His body. Join us next week as we explore our theme, "Ascended to be Present," and find comfort in knowing the One who fills all in all is always with you!

Learning with Littles Update: We had our last Learning with Littles for the school year this past Friday, and we had a great turnout with 58 kids! Looking back at the 2025-2026 year, we averaged 45 children per session. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support for this program. We're excited to start back up again in August!



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 David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Teacher Stephen Krause of Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE, has received the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> ILC Education Program Graduate Ms. Riley Naumann has received the call to teach 3-4 grades at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> 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 Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI.

Fruits of Faith		May 3, 2026		Attendance: WH – 37	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$1,854.00	General Budget	\$200.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
+\$492.00	-Under / +Over	+\$132.69	-Under / +Over		
\$23,138.22	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,005.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$24,516.00	Year to Date Need	\$1,211.58	Year to Date Need		
-\$1,377.78	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$206.58	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
\$40.00	Benevolence	\$100.00	ILC Building Fund		
\$100.00	Property Improvement				

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

May 11 – May 16, 2026

Monday - *John 16:23-30*

Jesus looks forward to a time when His disciples will take their requests straight to the Father in His name (verse 23). As He prepares to leave the world, He assures them of the Father's love (verse 27).

Tuesday - *James 1:22-27*

May the Word enter not only our ears. May it also enter our hearts and move us to act accordingly. Then we will be able to bridle our tongues and show God's mercy to orphans and widows.

Wednesday - *Jeremiah 29:11-14*

The LORD's plans for His people are truly good. He would have them seek Him with all their heart. They will find Him, and He will gather them from all places of exile unto Himself.

Thursday - *Psalms 124*

In Jesus' ascension to heaven (Acts 1:1-11), we see that He is more than just another man. Emphasized by repetition: it was the LORD God who was for us (verses 1-2). We have escaped (verse 7) by His help (verse 8).

Friday - *Psalms 84*

God's children love the place where He, the living God, is! How blessed are all who live in His presence and find their strength in His grace and glory (verse 11). Blessed is the one who trusts in Him! (verse 12)

Saturday - *Romans 8:24-28*

After Jesus' ascension, the disciples looked forward to the coming of the Spirit with His gifts. He helps us in our weakness when we pray, and He helps us to trust God's good purposes for us.

