

HE SAID TO THEM,
"But who do you
say that I am?"

SIMON PETER
ANSWERED AND SAID,
"You are the Christ,
the Son of the
living God."

MATTHEW 16:15-16



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Do you remember the sudden jolt of a pop quiz in school? The teacher turns around and asks a question that demands an immediate answer. You can't hide behind your textbook or rely on the student next to you. In today's Gospel reading from Matthew 16, Jesus gives His disciples the ultimate pop quiz. It is not about math or history, but the most vital subject in the universe: His own identity. As we give thanks today for the blessing of Christian education, we are reminded of exactly why we study the Scriptures. Let us quiet our hearts as we prepare to face "The Ultimate Pop Quiz."

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

294 – O Word of God Incarnate

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Romans 11:33; Psalm 25:4-5; Romans 10:10

P Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

C **How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**

P Show me Your ways, O Lord;

C **Teach me Your paths.**

P Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

C **For You are the God of my salvation.**

P For with the heart one believes unto righteousness,

C **And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Confession and Absolution

P In our daily lives, we are frequently put to the test. Sometimes we are given time to prepare. Other times, we are caught completely off guard and put on the spot. We are continually asked by our culture, by our peers, and by our own doubts: "Who do you say that God is?" If we are honest, our actions, our words, and our choosing to remain silent when we should speak up often yield the wrong answer. We fail the test. We fail to confess our Lord boldly. Yet, our God invites us to return to Him, seeking His unsearchable mercy. Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father.

C Heavenly Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed Your tests. When the world demands to know where we stand, we often shrink back in fear. We have leaned on our own understanding instead of trusting Your perfect wisdom. We have not offered our bodies as living sacrifices, and we have allowed ourselves to be conformed to this world. Forgive us, renew our minds, and give us the courage to confess Your Son.

P God has not left us to fail. The ultimate test of the Law was answered perfectly by Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. He went to the cross to pay for every time we have fallen short, and He rose again to give us His perfect grade of righteousness. Upon this rock He builds His Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, 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 the text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, with some beamed eighth notes and some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across 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.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ “Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.” ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. ⁴ “Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples. ⁵ My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 138

- P** I will praise You with my whole heart;
- C** Before the gods I will sing praises to You.
- P** I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;
- C** For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.
- P** In the day when I cried out, You answered me,
- C** And made me bold with strength in my soul.
- P** All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord,
- C** When they hear the words of Your mouth.
- P** Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
- C** For great is the glory of the Lord.
- P** Though the Lord is on high, Yet He regards the lowly;
- C** But the proud He knows from afar.
- P** Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;
- C** You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.
- P** The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever;
- C** Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Children's Anthem

Come with Thanksgiving

Epistle Reading

Romans 11:33–12:8

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” ³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

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
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!



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

381 – I Know My Faith Is Founded

Sermon Text

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.



Sermon

The Ultimate Pop Quiz

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

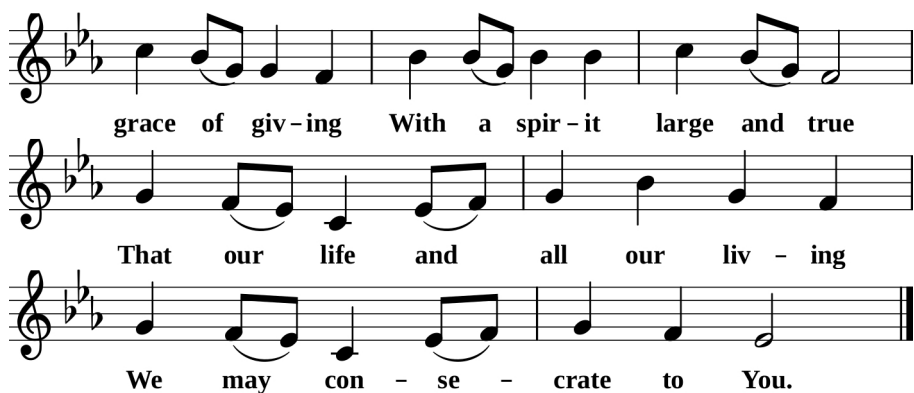
Offering

Offering Hymn

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



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

477 – Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

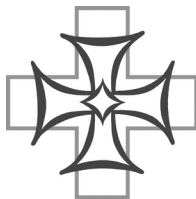
August 23	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
		Education Sunday – ILS Children Sing
August 30	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
September 4	11:30 am	ILS Early Release
September 6	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Board of Trustees Meeting

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

- **September 6** – Trustees
- **October 4** – Church Council
- **November 1** – Education/Elders/Quarterly Voters' Meeting

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: In our world, everyone wants to reach the top. We are taught to climb the ladder, demand our rights, and look out for number one. But in God's kingdom, the path of grace goes in the exact opposite direction. Next Sunday, our sermon theme is "The Race to the Bottom," based on Romans 12:9-21. Paul challenges us to run a very different kind of race—one where we are "in honor giving preference to one another." How do we learn to abhor evil, cling to what is good, and associate with the humble when our sinful flesh wants to be exalted? Join us as we look to Jesus, who ran the ultimate race to the bottom for our salvation, empowering us to love without hypocrisy.



CLC Call News: Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison, Heights, MI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Vernon, British Columbia, has returned the call to St. Luke’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor David Reim has also returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, has returned the call to St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN.

Fruits of Faith		August 16, 2026		Attendance: WH – 25	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$673.10	General Budget	\$10.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
-\$688.90	-Under / +Over	-\$57.31	-Under / +Over		
\$43,241.07	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,375.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$44,946.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,221.23	Year to Date Need		
-\$1,704.93	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$846.23	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
\$40.00	Benevolence	\$100.00	ILC Building Fund		
\$100.00	Property Improvement	\$10.00	ILC Student Aid Fund		
\$50.00	Building Fund				



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

August 24–29, 2026

Monday - 1 Peter 2:4-10

The apostle describes believers as living stones being built upon Jesus, the chosen and precious chief cornerstone. Those who believe in Him will never be put to shame, for He has called us "out of darkness into His marvelous light" (v. 9).

Tuesday - Colossians 2:1-8

Paul encourages the church to have their hearts knit together in love, seeking a full understanding of God's mystery. He reminds us that in Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (v. 3), warning us not to be deceived by worldly philosophy.

Wednesday - John 6:60-69

When many turn away from following Jesus due to His difficult teachings, He asks the twelve if they will also leave. Simon Peter boldly confesses their shared faith, declaring, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (v. 68).

Thursday - 2 Timothy 3:10-17

The apostle Paul urges a young pastor to continue in the things he has learned from the Holy Scriptures since childhood. He emphasizes that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (v. 16) and is completely sufficient to equip the believer for every good work.

Friday - 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

We are reminded that the Church is God's building, constructed by His grace. Pastors and teachers must be careful how they build upon it, "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (v. 11).

Saturday - Proverbs 9:1-10

Wisdom is personified as one who has built her house and prepared a great feast, inviting the simple to come and gain understanding. The passage concludes with the foundational truth for all learning: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (v. 10).

