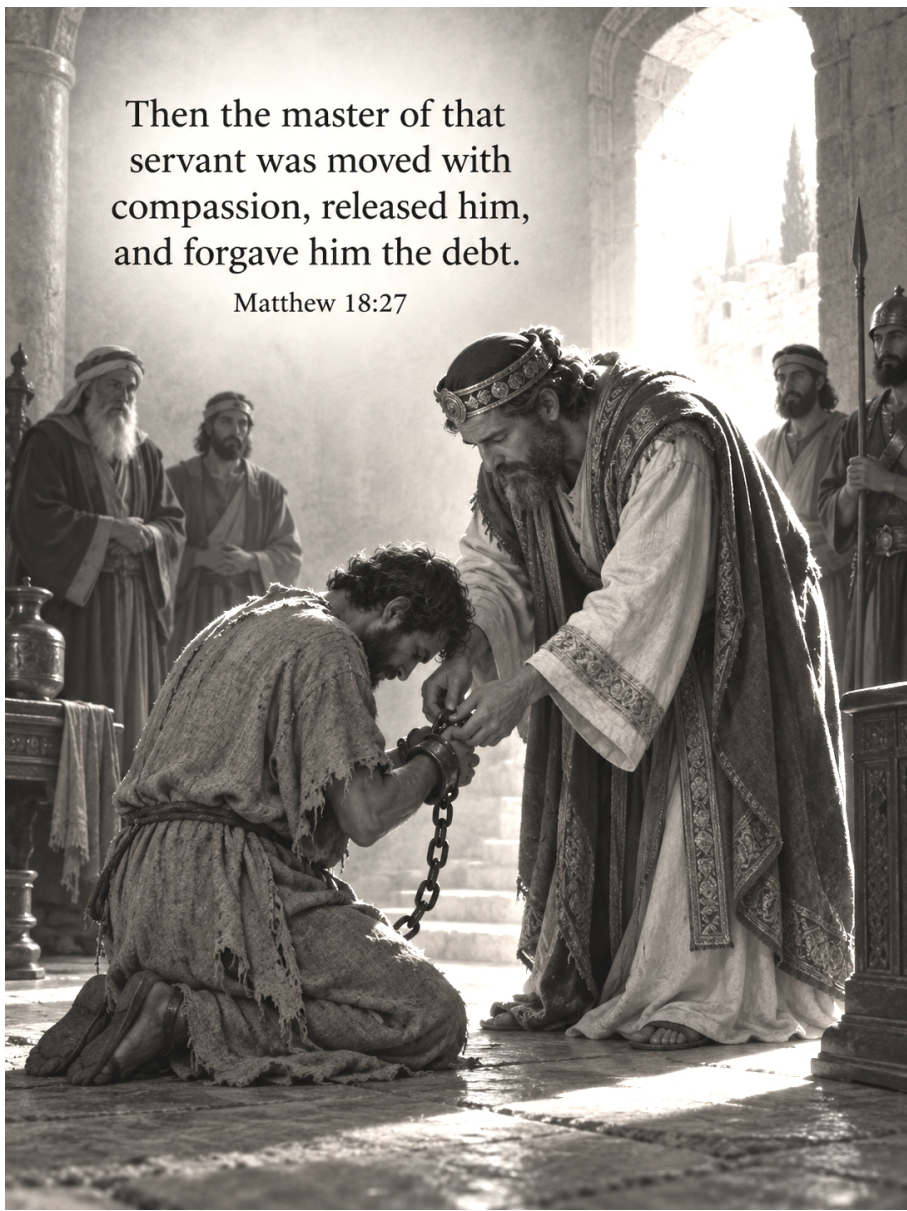


Then the master of that
servant was moved with
compassion, released him,
and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:27



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

There are some things we instinctively keep track of—money, time, favors, offenses. Especially offenses. How many times can someone hurt us before enough is enough? Peter brought that kind of question to Jesus, and Jesus answered with a story that turns ordinary calculations upside down. In today's sermon text, mercy is weighed against debt, patience against judgment, and what seems reasonable against the astonishing generosity of a king. As we gather for worship, we come before the One who knows exactly what we owe. And yet, in Christ, He speaks a word no ledger could predict. Today Jesus invites us to consider The Mathematics of Mercy.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

279 – Today Thy Mercy Calls Us

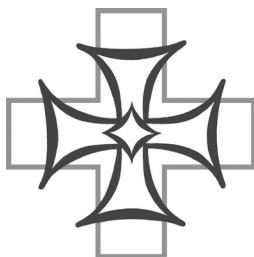
Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 130:3-4; 103:12; Ephesians 4:32

- P** If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.**
- P** As far as the east is from the west,
- C** **So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**
- P** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
- C** **forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**



Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near to God with a true heart and confess our sins, trusting not in our own goodness, but in His abundant mercy through Jesus Christ.
- C** **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have failed to love You with our whole heart, and we have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves. We have kept count of the sins of others while excusing our own. We have held grudges, withheld forgiveness, judged our brothers and sisters, and forgotten how great a debt You have forgiven us. We have nothing with which to repay You and no righteousness of our own to offer. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who bore our sins on the cross and paid our debt in full, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and by Your Holy Spirit lead us to forgive others as You have forgiven us.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. Jesus Christ bore the full debt of our sin, died in our place, and rose again for our justification. Therefore, upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of the Word, 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 is written on three staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son". The second staff continues with "and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - ginning,". The third staff concludes with "is now, and ev - er shall be for - ev - er more. A - men." The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, then B4, and ending on G4. The second staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, then B4, and ending on G4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, then B4, and ending on G4. The second staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, then B4, and ending on G4. The third staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, then B4, and ending on G4. The fourth staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, then B4, and ending on G4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 103:1-12

- P** Bless the LORD, O my soul;
- C** **And all that is within me, bless His holy name!**
- P** Bless the LORD, O my soul,
- C** **And forget not all His benefits:**
- P** Who forgives all your iniquities,
- C** **Who heals all your diseases,**
- P** Who redeems your life from destruction,
- C** **Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,**
- P** Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
- C** **So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**
- P** The LORD executes righteousness
- C** **And justice for all who are oppressed.**
- P** He made known His ways to Moses,
- C** **His acts to the children of Israel.**
- P** The LORD is merciful and gracious,
- C** **Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.**
- P** He will not always strive with us,
- C** **Nor will He keep His anger forever.**
- P** He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
- C** **Nor punished us according to our iniquities.**
- P** For as the heavens are high above the earth,
- C** **So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;**
- P** As far as the east is from the west,
- C** **So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. ² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. ³ Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. ⁴ Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹ For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

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.

Sermon Text

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵ “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

*Sermon***The Mathematics of Mercy**

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.

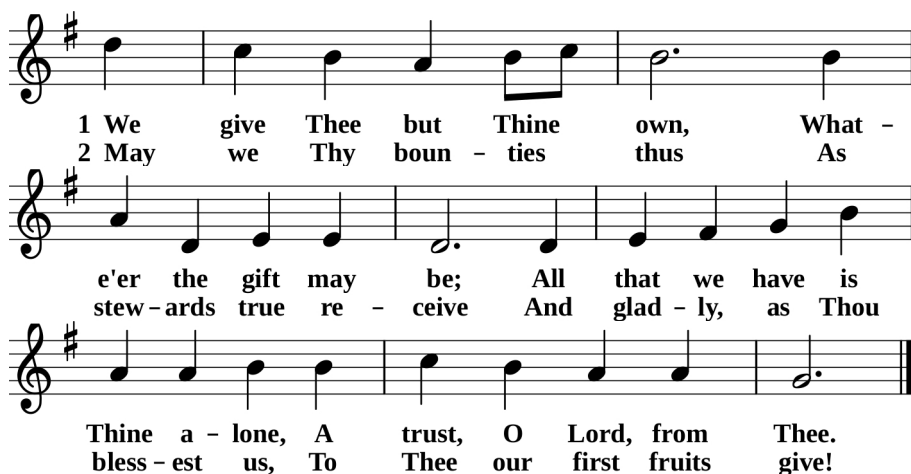
Hymn

321 - O Faithful God, Thanks Be to Thee

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
Thee all praise and glo - ry to be. How
life, our gifts, and our pow'r to give. 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

779 – Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

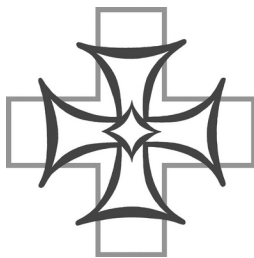
September 13	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
September 20	9:15am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
September 27	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **September 6** – Trustees/Ladies’ Meeting
- **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: Next Sunday we will consider one of the most familiar and striking statements in Paul’s letter to the Philippians: “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). Those words sound bold, especially when we remember that Paul wrote them while imprisoned and facing an uncertain future. What could give him such confidence? And what do these words mean for us as we face the joys, disappointments, changes, and uncertainties of our own lives? In Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30, Paul directs our attention away from circumstances we cannot control and toward the One who remains faithful in every circumstance. We’ll see how Christ gives both our life and our future a sure and lasting hope.



CLC Call News: Pastor Glenn Oster of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA, has received the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Chad Seybt of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI, Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Melrose, WI, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Mr. Nick Naumann has returned the call to St. Luke’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX, has received the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has received the call to St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN.

Fruits of Faith		September 6, 2026		Attendance: WH – 45	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>				<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>				<i>General Budget</i>	
\$2,170.00	General Budget			\$0.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need			\$67.31	Weekly Need
+\$808.00	-Under / +Over			-\$67.31	-Under / +Over
\$47,578.82	Year to Date Offerings			\$1,425.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$49,032.00	Year to Date Need			\$2,423.16	Year to Date Need
-\$1,453.18	Year to Date (+/-)			-\$998.16	Year to Date (+/-)
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>				<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
\$50.00	Building Fund			\$100.00	ILC Building Fund
\$100.00	Property Improvement				



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

September 14–19, 2026

Monday – *Isaiah 44:21-23*

The LORD calls His people to remember that they belong to Him. Though they have sinned against Him, He has swept their guilt away and calls them back to Himself: “Return to Me, for I have redeemed you” (v. 22).

Tuesday – *2 Corinthians 2:5-11*

Paul urges the Corinthian Christians not to keep punishing a brother who has repented. Instead, they are to forgive him, comfort him, and reaffirm their love for him, so that sorrow does not overwhelm him.

Wednesday – *Luke 7:36-50*

A woman known publicly as a sinner comes to Jesus in repentance and faith while a Pharisee looks upon her with contempt. Jesus sends her away with the comforting words, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace” (v. 50).

Thursday – *Philemon 8-21*

Paul appeals to Philemon to receive Onesimus no longer merely as a servant, but as a beloved brother in Christ. Paul even offers to take upon himself whatever Onesimus owes: “If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me” (v. 17).

Friday – *Genesis 33:1-11*

Jacob approaches his brother Esau fearing what may happen after the wrongs and bitterness of the past. Instead, Esau runs to meet him, embraces him, and the two brothers are reunited in a scene of unexpected kindness and peace.

Saturday – *1 John 1:5–2:2*

John warns us against denying or excusing our sin, but he also directs troubled consciences to God’s sure promise. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins” (1:9), for Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father.

