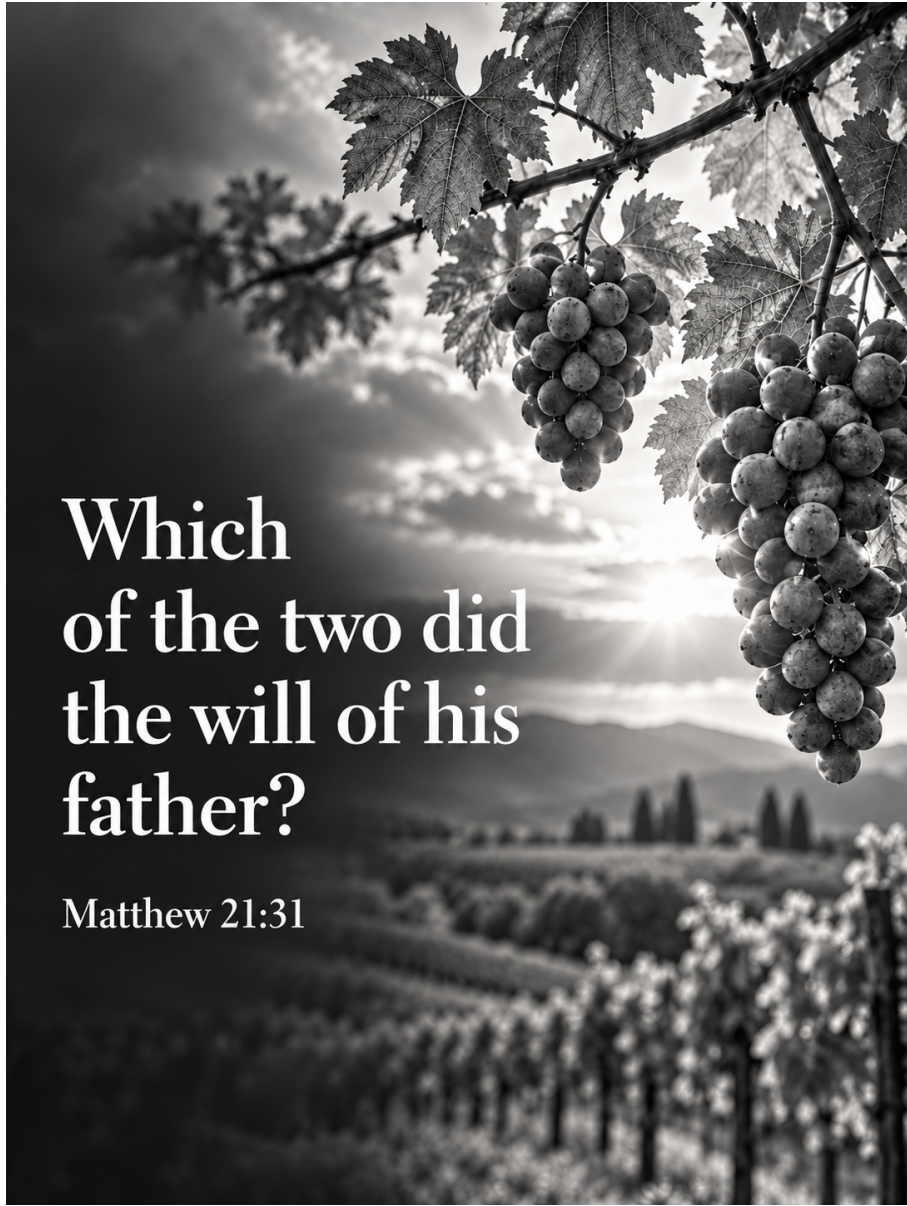




Which of the two did the will of his father?

Matthew 21:31



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

In today's Gospel, Jesus is confronted by religious leaders who challenge His authority. Rather than answering them directly, He tells a short parable about two sons—one who refuses his father and later goes, and another who promises to go but does not. Then Jesus asks a simple question: "Which of the two did the will of his father?" It is a question that reaches far beyond those two sons. What does true obedience look like? What does repentance have to do with it? And what does this parable reveal about those who seem closest to God—and those who seem farthest away? As we gather, Jesus invites us to listen carefully to His answer.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

37 – Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 143:10; 25:4-5; 19:12; 103:3-4

P Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

C **Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.**

P Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.

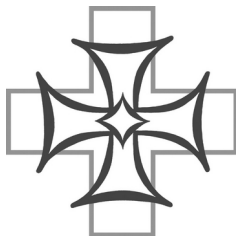
C **Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.**

P Who can understand his errors?

C **Cleanse me from secret faults.**

P If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.**



Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have known Your will, yet too often followed our own. We have said that we love You, yet our lives have not always shown it. We have promised obedience, yet resisted Your Word. We have failed to love our neighbors, neglected the good You have given us to do, and trusted ourselves more than Your promises. For these and all our sins, we are truly sorry. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, who perfectly obeyed Your will and gave Himself for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may walk in Your ways and live to Your glory. Amen.

P Almighty God, in His mercy, sent His Son into this world to do the Father's will perfectly in our place. Jesus Christ humbled Himself, became obedient unto death, and gave His life on the cross for the sins of the world. He has risen from the dead, and by His finished work your sins are forgiven. 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.

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 the melody for '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 treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). 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 five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The third staff continues the melody: C3 (half), B2 (half), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (half), C2 (half). The fourth staff continues the melody: B1 (half), A1 (half), G1 (quarter), F#1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (half), B1 (half). The fifth staff continues the melody: A1 (half), G1 (half), F#1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (quarter), B1 (half), A1 (half). 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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, ² “What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³ “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. ⁴ “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die. ²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? ²⁶ When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. ²⁸ Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? ³⁰ “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25:1-10

- P** To You, O Lord,
- C** I lift up my soul.
- P** O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed;
- C** Let not my enemies triumph over me.
- P** Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed;
- C** Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.
- P** Show me Your ways, O Lord;
- C** Teach me Your paths.
- P** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation;
- C** On You I wait all the day.
- P** Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses,
- C** For they are from of old.
- P** Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;
- C** According to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness’ sake, O Lord.

- P** Good and upright is the Lord;
- C** **Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.**
- P** The humble He guides in justice,
- C** **And the humble He teaches His way.**
- P** All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth,
- C** **To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-18

¹ Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. ¹⁷ Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.



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

380 – Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ

Sermon Text

Matthew 21:21-32

²¹ So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.” ²² And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” ²³ Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?” ²⁴ But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: ²⁵ The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” ²⁸ “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’” ²⁹ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but

afterward he regretted it and went. ³⁰ Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.



Sermon

The Son Who Truly Said Yes

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

387 (1, 6-8) – Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

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!

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

377 (1-2, 5, 9-10) – Salvation unto Us Has Come

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

September 27	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
October 2	11:30 am	ILS – Early Release
October 4	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Mission Festival – ILS Children Sing
	11:30 am	Fall Potluck
	12:30 pm	Church Council
October 9	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
	3:00 pm	Visitation for Gail Sedberry
	4:00 pm	Funeral Service for Gail Sedberry
October 11	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **October 4** – Church Council
- **November 1** – Education/Elders/Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/Church Council

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.

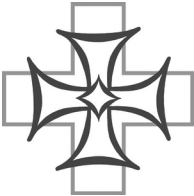
Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday we will celebrate our annual Mission Festival, an opportunity to think about the work Christ has given His Church to do here and around the world. Our sermon text will be 2 Corinthians 5:14–21 under the theme, “The Mission Begins at the Cross.” Paul reminds us that Christian missions begins with Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for sinners and entrusted His saving Gospel to His Church. Join us as we rejoice in that good news and consider the privilege of sharing Christ’s message with others.

Funeral for Gail Sedberry: Our sister in Christ, Gail Sedberry, was called home to the Lord this past Wednesday afternoon. We mourn her death, but we do so in the sure and certain hope that Jesus Christ has conquered death by His own death and resurrection and has promised eternal life to all who trust in Him. Gail’s Christian funeral will be held at Immanuel on Friday, October 9. Visitation will be from 3:00–4:00 pm, with the funeral service beginning at 4:00 pm. Please keep Gail’s close friends and all who mourn in your prayers, asking the Lord to comfort them through His Word and the promises of our risen Savior.

Church Work Day – November 7: Mark your calendars for our church work day on Saturday, November 7. We’ll be working together on various projects around the church and school grounds. There will be jobs for a variety of ages and abilities, so please plan to join us if you are able. Many hands make light work, and it’s always a good opportunity to enjoy some fellowship while caring for the property God has entrusted to us. More details will be shared as the date approaches.

Part-Time Missionary Call to India: Pastor Sauers has received a call from the CLC Board of Missions to serve as the Part-Time Visiting Missionary to India. If accepted, he would serve as the primary liaison between the Board of Missions and our sister church bodies in India, the CLCI and BELC. The call would include an annual visit to India of approximately two to three weeks for pastoral training, preaching, teaching, and consultation, along with communication and preparation throughout the year. Because Pastor Sauers already serves under a full-time call at Immanuel, he is not free to accept this part-time call unless the congregation first approves his availability for this additional service. The congregation will therefore be asked to consider granting that approval. Please keep Pastor Sauers, his family, our congregation, and the work of the Gospel in India in your prayers as this call is considered.

Fruits of Faith		September 20, 2026		Attendance: WH – 35	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>			<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>			<i>General Budget</i>		
\$848.00	General Budget		\$0.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need		\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$514.00	-Under / +Over		-\$67.31	-Under / +Over	
\$48,757.57	Year to Date Offerings		\$1,425.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$51,756.00	Year to Date Need		\$2,557.78	Year to Date Need	
-\$2,998.43	Year to Date (+/-)		-\$1,132.78	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
\$50.00	Building Fund		\$200.00	Kinship	



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

September 28 – October 3, 2026

Monday - *Luke 18:9-14*

Jesus contrasts a self-confident Pharisee with a tax collector who can only plead, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" The man who brings no merit of his own goes home justified, while the one who exalts himself is humbled.

Tuesday - *Romans 2:1-11*

Paul warns against condemning others while excusing our own sin. God's judgment is impartial, and His patience is meant to lead us to repentance, reminding us that our only safe place before Him is in the mercy He gives through Christ.

Wednesday - *Jonah 3:1-10*

Jonah finally carries the Lord's warning to Nineveh, and the entire city responds with repentance. God sees their turning from evil and withholds the announced destruction, showing both the seriousness of His judgment and His eagerness to show mercy.

Thursday - *Philippians 2:19-30*

Paul commends Timothy and Epaphroditus as men whose lives reflect the humble service of Christ. Timothy sincerely cares for the needs of others, while Epaphroditus risks his life for the work of Christ, giving concrete examples of putting others before oneself.

Friday - *Psalms 25:11-22*

David asks the Lord to pardon his great guilt, teach those who fear Him, and look upon his loneliness and affliction. The prayer joins repentance with trust: the same God who exposes sin is the God to whom His people look for forgiveness and rescue.

Saturday - *Matthew 21:33-46*

Jesus tells of tenants who reject the landowner's servants and finally kill his son. The parable warns against resisting God's gracious claim upon us and points ahead to the rejection of Christ, the Son who nevertheless becomes the cornerstone.

