

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
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As We Gather

We live in a world filled with constant noise, daily distractions, and endless chatter. But when the Sovereign Lord approaches, the earth must keep silent. The prophet Zephaniah confronts us with a sobering reality: the great Day of the Lord is drawing near. Today, you are invited to step out of the clamor of your busy life and hush your hurried heart. We gather before our holy God not to justify ourselves or speak our own peace, but to listen in reverent awe. As we prepare for worship, let the quietness of true repentance settle over you. Silence your thoughts, confess your sins, and make ready to hear the thunder of His justice—and the sweet, saving assurance of His grace.

✢ Preparation for Worship ✢

Hymn 4 – God Himself Is Present

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences Habakkuk 2:20; Psalm 62:1; Zephaniah 1:7a

P The LORD is in His holy temple.
C **Let all the earth keep silence before Him.**
P Truly my soul silently waits for God;
C **From Him comes my salvation.**
P Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD;
C **For the day of the LORD is at hand.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, as we gather in the presence of the Sovereign Lord, Scripture calls all flesh to be silent before His awesome holiness. Yet we often drift into spiritual drowsiness and complacency, forgetting that we must render an account to Him. If the Lord should mark iniquities, none of us could stand. Let us therefore silence our excuses and confess our sins to Almighty God, trusting in His mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C **Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have let the noise of this world crowd out Your Word and have been unfaithful with the gifts You entrust to us. We have not loved You with our whole heart or our neighbors as ourselves, and we justly deserve Your present and eternal wrath. Yet for the sake of Jesus Christ, who bore Your wrath upon the cross, forgive us all our sins, awaken us by Your Holy Spirit, and keep us walking in the light of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. God did not appoint you to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

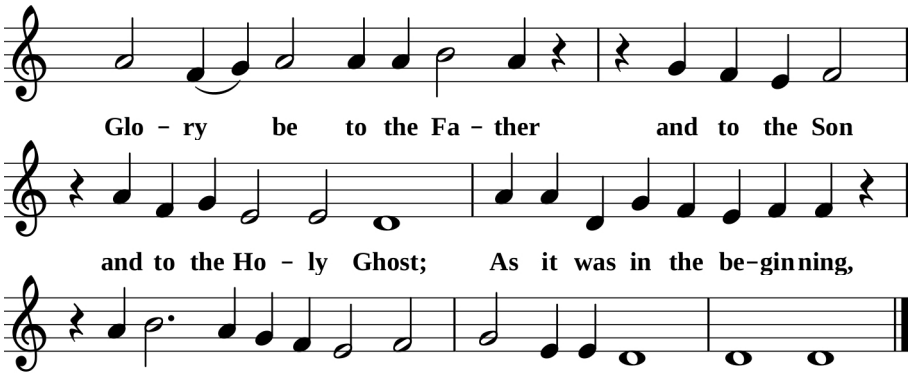
C **Amen.**

✢ The Service of the Word ✢

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

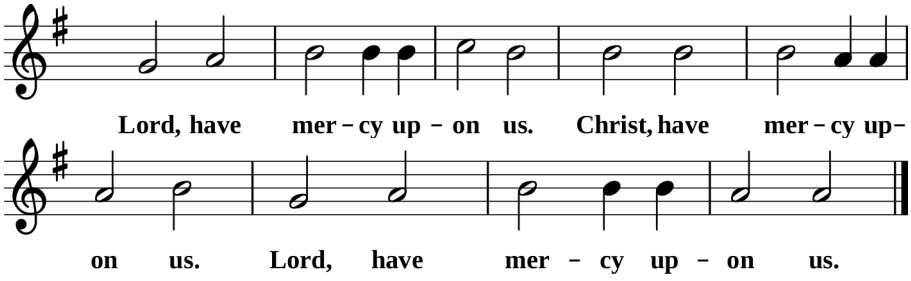
P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.





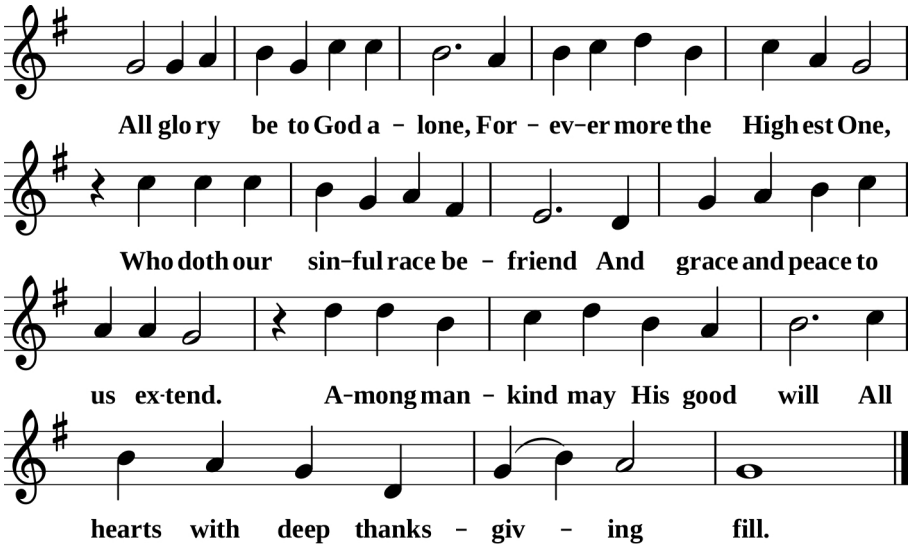
Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)



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 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. [2] For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. [3] For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. [4] But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. [5] You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. [6] Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. [7] For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. [8] But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. [11] Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90:1-12

P LORD, You have been our dwelling place
C **in all generations.**
P Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
C **Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**
P You turn man to destruction,
C **And say, "Return, O children of men."**
P For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past,
C **And like a watch in the night.**
P You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep.
C **In the morning they are like grass which grows up:**
P In the morning it flourishes and grows up;
C **In the evening it is cut down and withers.**
P For we have been consumed by Your anger,
C **And by Your wrath we are terrified.**
P You have set our iniquities before You,
C **Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.**
P For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;
C **We finish our years like a sigh.**
P The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,
C **Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.**

P Who knows the power of Your anger?
C **For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.**
P So teach us to number our days,
C **That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

Gospel Reading
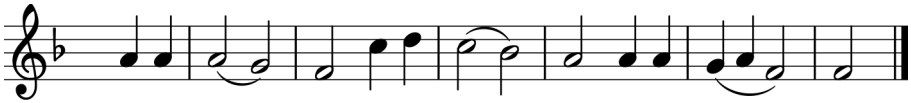
Matthew 25:14-30

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who
called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he
gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his
own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had
received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five
talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.
18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his
lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled
accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and
brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents;
look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I
will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He
also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me
two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord
said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful
over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy
of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said,
'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and
gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went
and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'
26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant,
you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not
scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the
bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with
interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten
talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have
abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken
away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



Alleluia

℗ 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

612 – That Day of Wrath, That Dreadful Day

Sermon Text

Zephaniah 1:7-16

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at
hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.
8 "And it shall be, In the day of the LORD's sacrifice, That I will punish the
princes and the king's children, And all such as are clothed with foreign
apparel. 9 In the same day I will punish All those who leap over the
threshold, Who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit. 10 "And
there shall be on that day," says the LORD, "The sound of a mournful cry
from the Fish Gate, A wailing from the Second Quarter, And a loud crashing
from the hills. 11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant
people are cut down; All those who handle money are cut off. 12 "And it
shall come to pass at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And
punish the men Who are settled in complacency, Who say in their heart,
'The LORD will not do good, Nor will He do evil.' 13 Therefore their goods
shall become booty, And their houses a desolation; They shall build houses,
but not inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine."
14 The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The
noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

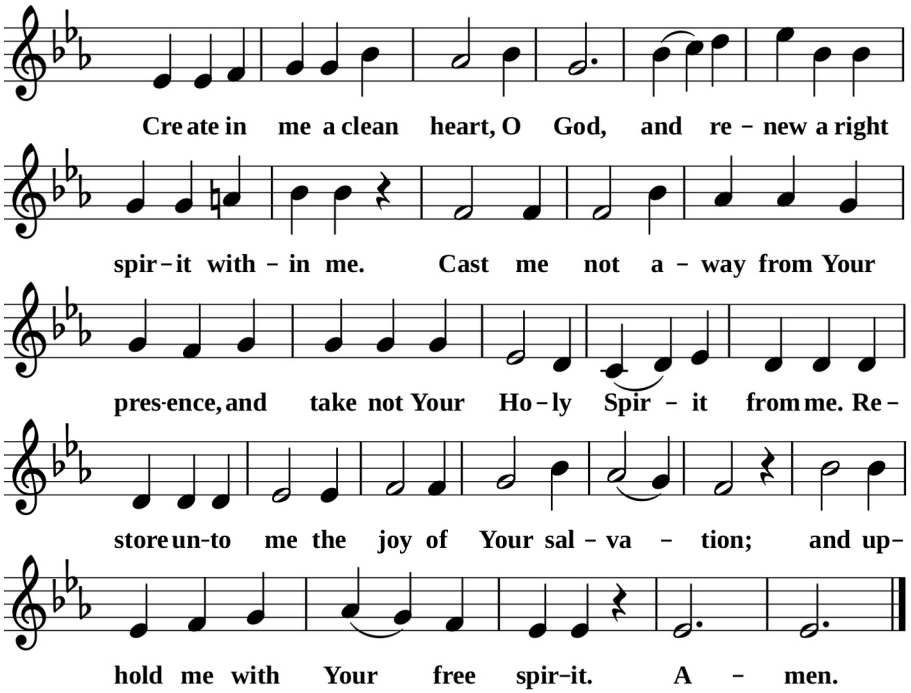
[15] That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, [16] A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.



Sermon

Silence Before the Sovereign Lord

Offertory



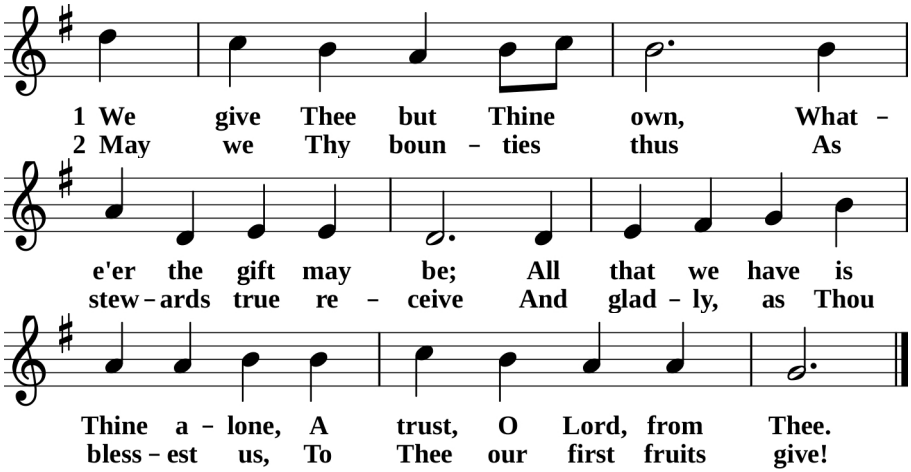
Hymn

388 – Just as I Am, without One Plea

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



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

611 (1, 4-7) – The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

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✢ Announcements ✢

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar		
November 15	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
November 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
November 26	10:15 am	Thanksgiving Day Worship Service
November 28	9:00 am	Christmas Decorating
November 29	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 3** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 7** – Education/Elders

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: Picture the awe-inspiring moment "when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him" to gather all nations before His throne. Next Sunday, we turn to Jesus' sobering preview of the Last Day in Matthew 25:31–46 under the theme, "Lord, When Did We See You?" As the King divides the sheep from the goats, a startling detail stands out: both groups standing before Him ask the exact same bewildered question—yet their eternal destinies couldn't be further apart. Why are both sides so caught off guard by the King's words? Join us in worship next week as we open Scripture together and see what Jesus' prophecy means for our lives today.

CLC Call News: Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has received the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> 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 received the call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD <> Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

Kinship Sponsors Needed: After the CLC declared fellowship with the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) in 2020, the CLC Board of Missions has been working together with the BLCM to establish a local seminary for pastoral training. There is currently one BLCM pastor serving 1,715 souls across 19 congregations and 14 preaching stations in a country that is 95% Muslim. However, this January, 14 men will begin their pastoral training as the inaugural seminary class of the BLCM. Sponsors are needed to help these men receive their training so that they may join in the abundant work in Bangladesh. The cost of a sponsorship will be $60 per month. To begin a sponsorship or for more information, please text, call, or email Dan Roehl. (Cell: 507-381-2042; Email: danroehl@hotmail.com)

✢ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✢

November 16–21, 2026

Monday - *Ecclesiastes 5:1-7*
Solomon urges believers to approach God's house with careful reverence, drawing near to listen rather than offering thoughtless words (vv. 1-2). Because God is in heaven and we are on earth, our worship should be marked by humility, integrity, and the awe of the Lord (v. 7) rather than empty promises.

Tuesday - *Psalm 39:4-13*
David asks the Lord to show him how brief and fragile earthly life truly is, confessing that human existence passes away like a mere breath (vv. 4-5). Turning away from fleeting worldly pursuits, the psalmist places his hope entirely in the Lord (v. 7) and pleads for deliverance from all his transgressions (v. 8).

Wednesday - *2 Peter 3:8-14*
Peter reminds Christians that the Lord's timing is not measured by human standards and that His delay in returning flows from His patient desire for sinners to come to repentance (vv. 8-9). Although the Day of the Lord will arrive unexpectedly and dissolve this present creation (v. 10), believers look forward in faith to a new creation where righteousness dwells, striving to be found at peace in Christ (vv. 13-14).

Thursday - *Romans 13:11-14*
The apostle Paul calls believers to shake off spiritual drowsiness because our final salvation is drawing ever closer (v. 11). Since the night is nearly over and the eternal day is near, Christians are urged to lay aside deeds of darkness, equip themselves with the armor of light (v. 12), and clothe themselves in the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 14).

Friday - *1 Peter 4:7-11*
With the end of all things approaching, Peter exhorts believers to remain clear-minded and watchful in prayer while showing fervent, forgiving love to one another (vv. 7-8). Each Christian is called to serve others faithfully as a wise steward of God's varied grace (v. 10), so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (v. 11).

Saturday - *Malachi 3:16–4:3*
The Lord takes careful note of those who revere Him and meditate on His name, promising to spare them as His treasured possession on the day He acts (vv. 16-17). While the coming day of judgment will consume the arrogant and wicked like fire (4:1), Christ will rise upon those who fear His name with healing and joyful deliverance (4:2).