

Sunday, November 8th 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost. Year A
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Office Hours:
Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
or by appointment

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.
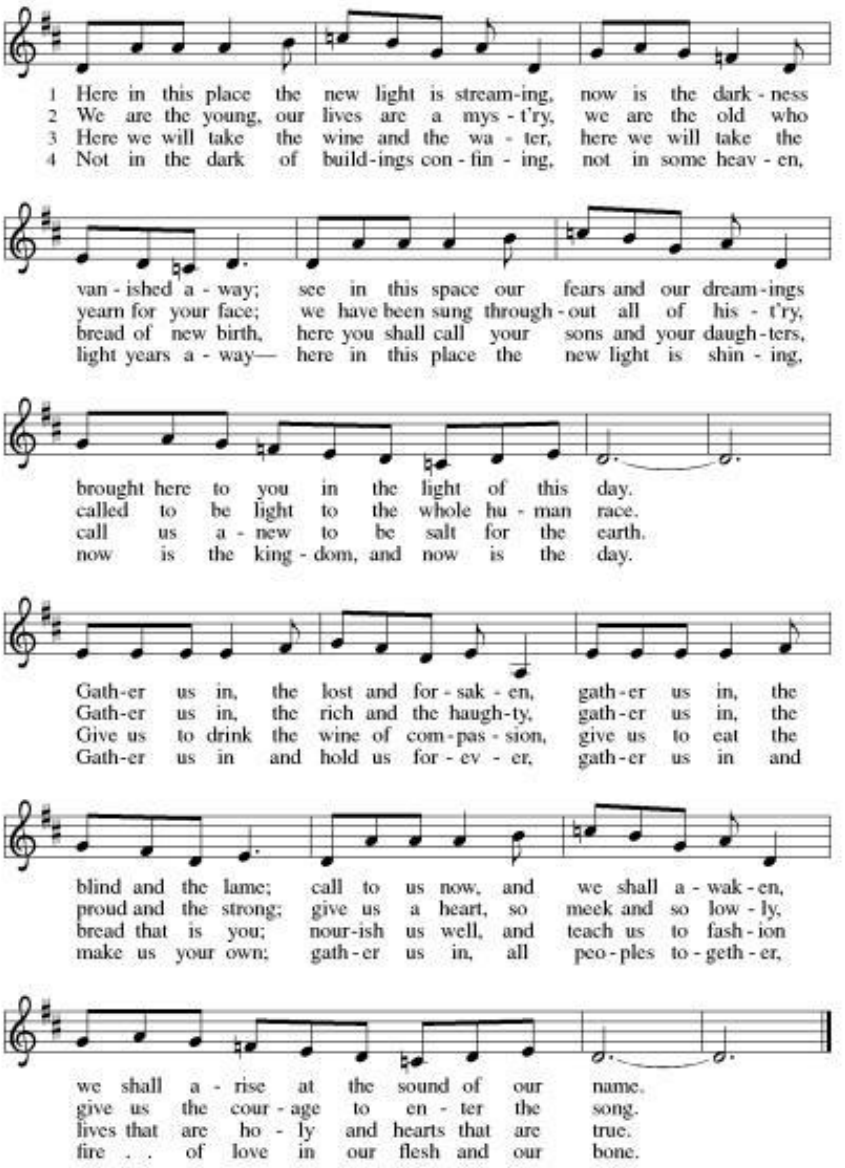
Merciful God, We confess that we do not always live as you have called us to live. We become so caught up in our worries about tomorrow that we fail to recognize your presence today. We are quick to judge and slow to listen. We draw lines between ourselves and others, forgetting that we are all your beloved children. At times, we hold tightly to what we have, even when others are in need. And at other times, we are too afraid or too proud to ask for help when our own lamps are running low. Forgive us, O God. Open our hearts to one another, renew our faith, and help us to live with compassion, courage, and love. Amen.

Hear the good news: God's love is not measured by how prepared we are, how much we have accomplished, or how brightly our lamps are burning. In Jesus ☩ Christ, we are known, loved, and forgiven. May the Holy Spirit renew your strength, fill you with hope, and lead you to live in the love of Christ, today and always.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,
In the midst of life's uncertainties, remind us that you are always near. Open our eyes to recognize your presence among us and our hearts to care for one another. Give us wisdom to live faithfully, courage to love generously, and grace to make the most of the time we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light, as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God

Psalm 70

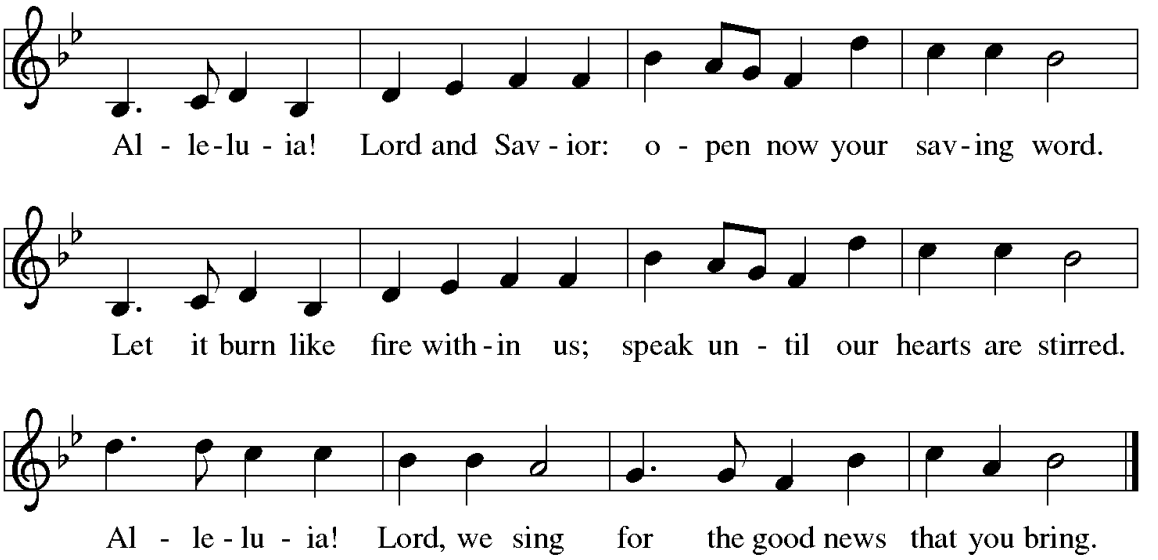
Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"
But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who
have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since
we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring
with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no
means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will
descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are
alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the
Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage
one another with these words.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God
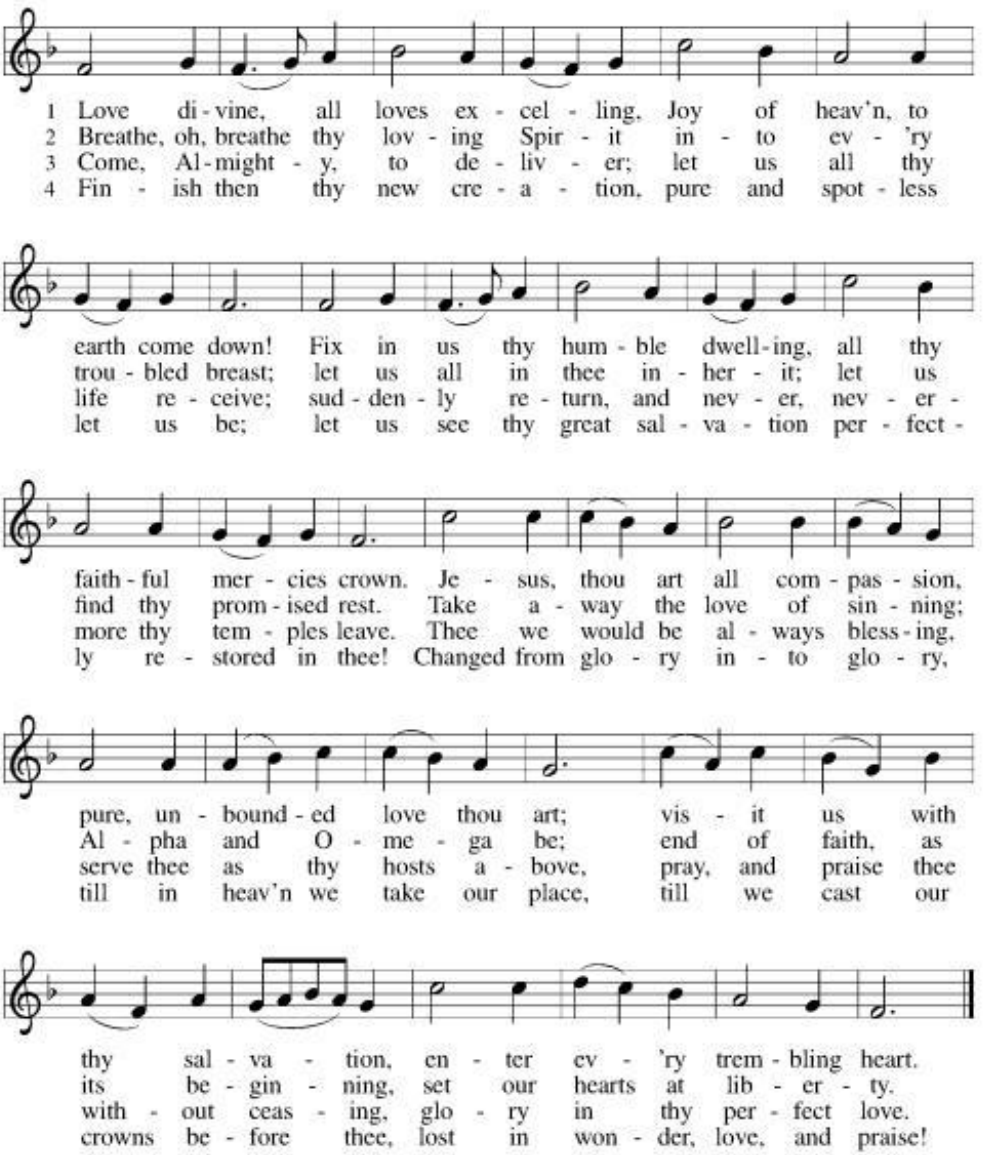


GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & NOISY OFFERING

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Responding to "Hear us, O God," with **"Your mercy is great."**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
Everything we have is a gift from God, entrusted to our care for a time. And so our offering is one way we tend what God has given. Let us give with grateful and generous hearts.

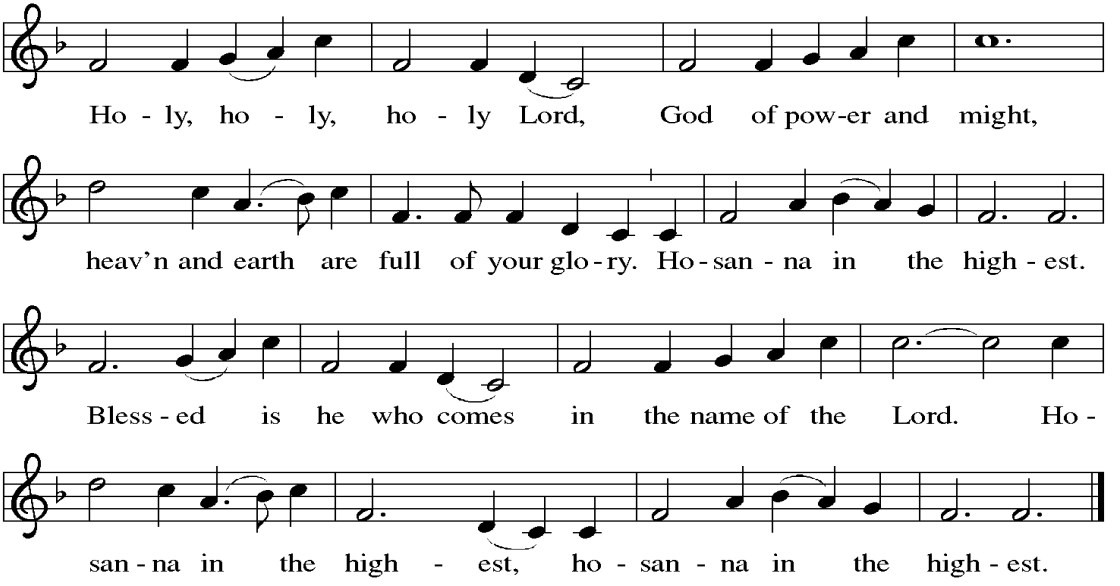


GIVE THANKS
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

OFFERING PRAYER
Generous God,
All that we have and all that we are comes from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and love. Help us to share generously, care for one another, and use the time and resources you have entrusted to us to bring hope, compassion, and healing to the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



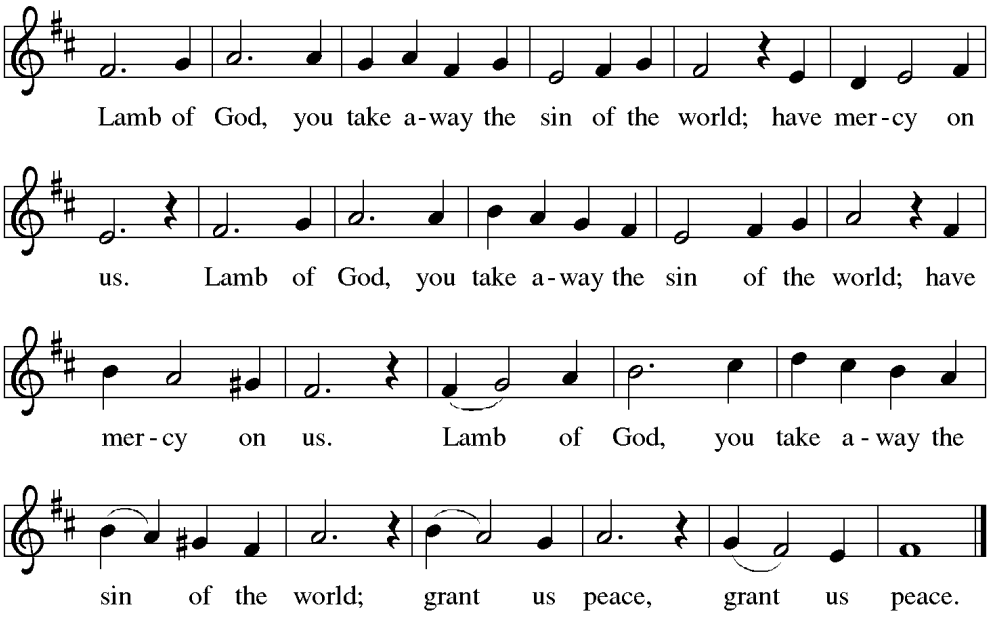
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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 & ever. Amen.
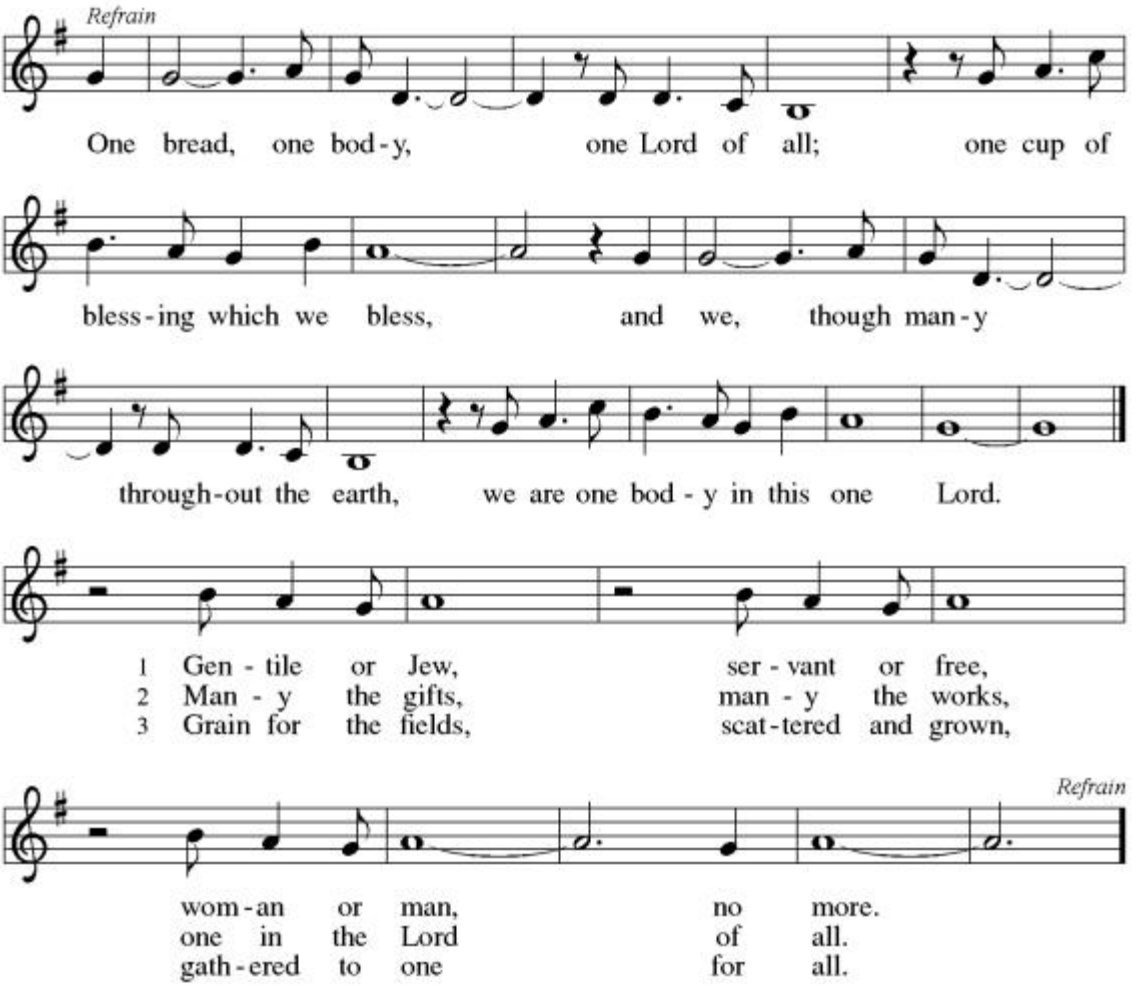
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved in Christ, all are welcome to this table. Not because our lamps are always burning brightly, but because Christ invites us. Here, there is room for all of us. Here, we are nourished by the same bread, united in the same love, and strengthened to care for one another. To offer strength when someone else's lamp is burning low and to receive that same care when our own strength runs out. So come, just as you are, and let us share in this meal of grace together.



COMMUNION HYMNS
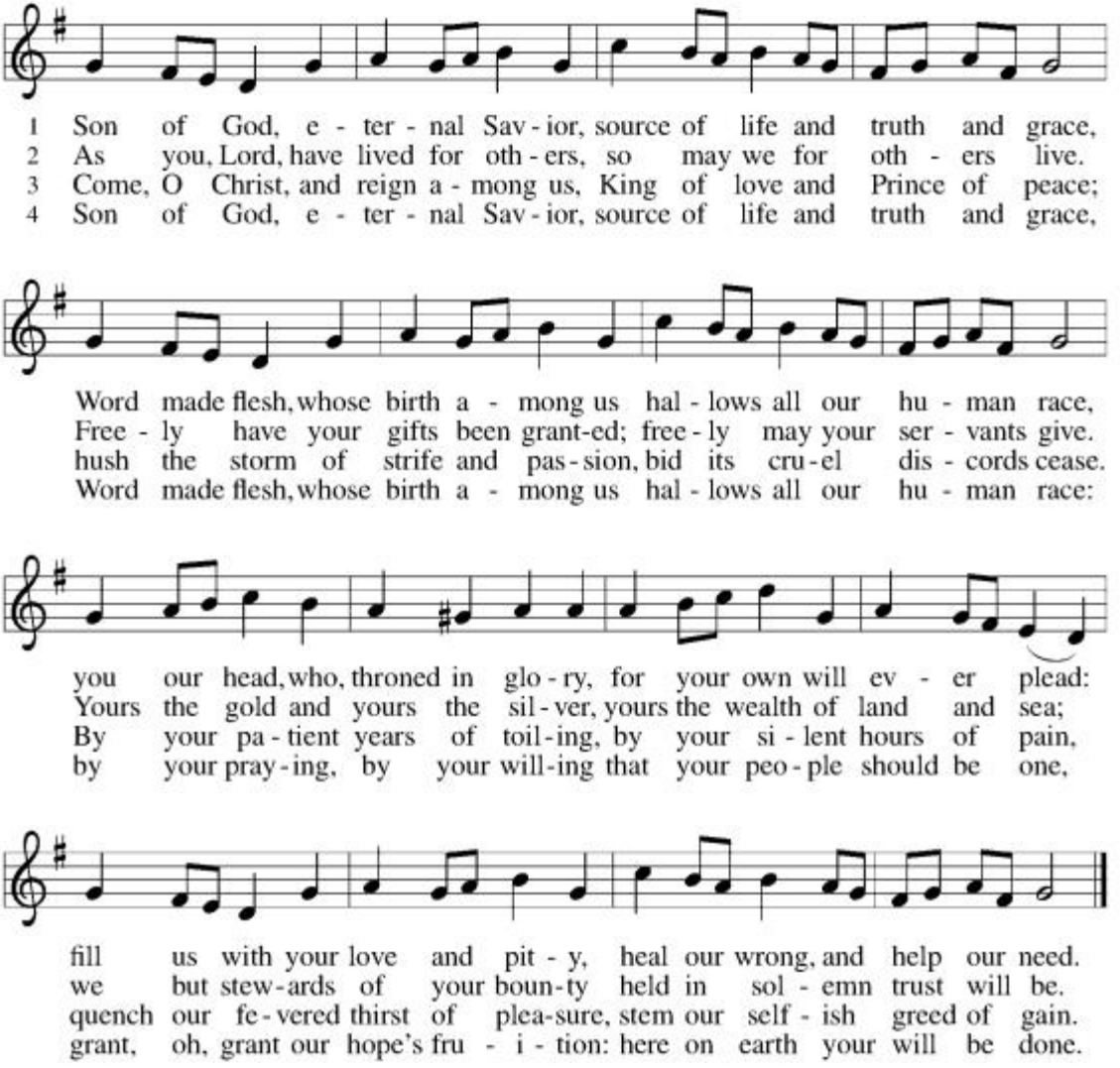
One Bread, One Body



Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ
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Son of God, Eternal Savior



Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932
Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
We give you thanks for this meal of grace, where you have nourished us with your love and reminded us that we do not walk this journey alone. Strengthen us to bear one another's burdens, to share hope when another's light grows dim, and to recognize your presence in the world around us. Send us forth to make the most of the time we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.
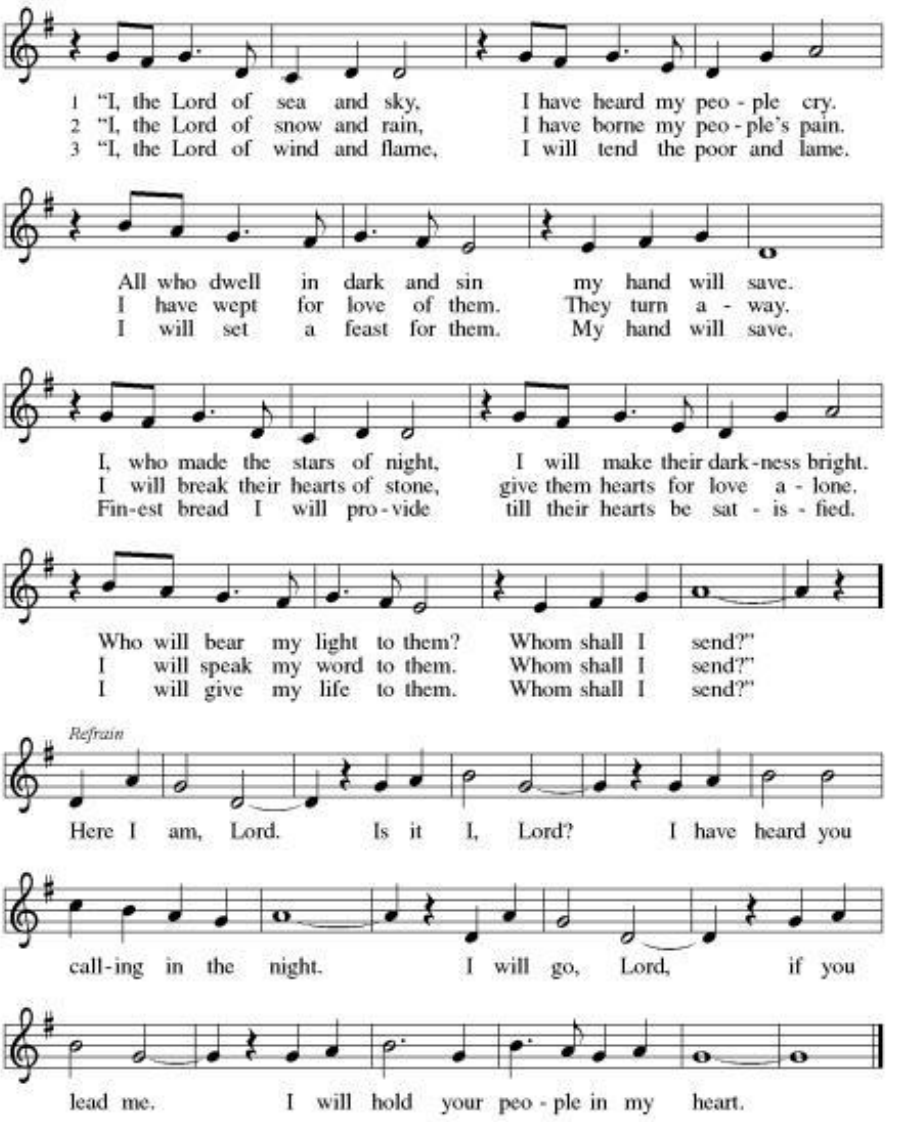
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

As you go from this place, may God give you wisdom to live faithfully, courage to love generously, and eyes to recognize Christ in the world around you.
May you find strength in one another, share your light when others are weary, and remember that even when your own light grows dim, you do not walk alone.
And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you, today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Here I Am, Lord



Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! *Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones.*

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John Immanuel and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Reminder! **If you are in need of Pastoral care, or if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Maggie, please contact St. John Immanuel (715) 675-6950**

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring **non-perishable grocery** items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 8th Noisy offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). This noisy offering will go to: "**Youth Gathering** – *We're raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith!*" Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

Thursday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Saturday, November 14th Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Packing Team: St. John Immanuel has pledged to send 32 volunteers to Highland Community Church to pack meals of rice, soy, vegetables and vitamins on Saturday, November 14th from 9am-11am. This year, the Wausau MobilePack will pack it's one millionth meal! Please sign up in the Narthex to be a part of this energetic and impactful team and see what just two hours of service can accomplish! Email Kim Landwehr with questions kamootz@gmail.com

Sunday, November 22nd St. John Immanuel Pie Auction Calling all pie lovers and bakers!! Do you need that special treat for Thanksgiving Day? Then this is the day for you. The pie auction will be held during Fellowship after worship. Bring a pie, buy a pie, or just plain old donate one for Fellowship! All proceeds will go to *Share Your Holidays.*

Tuesday, November 24th Thanksgiving Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a service of gratitude and Holy Communion.

Monday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. the Book Club will discuss *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston*

Tuesday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m. Calling all ladies! The Sisterhood Gathering is right around the corner. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with additional details.

Monday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. the Adult Study will discuss Acts 10 & 11

Thursday, December 17th Candlelit Shepherds Meal Doors open at 5:00 p.m. ***Dinner starts at 5:30***. Join us in a simple Shepherds Meal of soup, bread, dried fruit, nuts and cheeses by candlelight. You are invited to bring wine to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ. After our meal, we will move into the sanctuary where we will watch "Journey to Bethlehem," a 2023 "live-action Christmas musical adventure... that weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith and new pop songs in a retelling of the greatest story ever told." $10/participant paid that evening. Sign-up in the narthex.
This is intended for adults and older/mature children.

Monday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time.

2nd Year Confirmation Food Drive! The 2nd year confirmation students want to help the people in need by starting a food drive. They are looking for non-perishable items, and no expired food please. Items can be placed into the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Food will be distributed to local food banks.

Parking Lot Update: Please see the minutes located in the Narthex.

Do you like Texas Roadhouse? Enjoy a meal on a Sunday and earn money back to St. John Immanuel! Bring our church bulletin, turn it into your server, and St. John Immanuel will receive 10% back from your food sales!

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website! Help support St. John Immanuel with Kwik Trip gift cards!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John Immanuel November 8th – November 15th

Today – Sunday, November 8th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – Noisy Offering
10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Joseph and His Brothers

Tuesday, November 10th

9:00 a.m. All Conference Pastor's Meeting
6:00 p.m. Scholarship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 11th

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 12th

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, November 15th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Joseph Helps His Family

****Donations from Coffee hour will go towards a new refrigerator in our Fellowship Hall Kitchen.**