

Sermon: "The Difference Maker" Matthew 25:31-46
Saturday, November 21 & Sunday, November 22, 2026
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
Okawville, Illinois 62271
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

We gather on the Lord's Day knowing that "Christ being raised from the dead will never die again" (Romans 6:9). Welcome, visitors who have joined us today. If we can help in any way, please call: Church 618-243-6216 or School 618-243-6142.

Pastor Eric Wood
Phone: 618-243-2846
Email: myhomeontherange@juno.com

Principal Kelli Borrenpohl
Phone: 618-243-6142
Email: principal@immanuelokawville.org

Immanuel Website: immanuelokawville.org
Saturday: 26 Communed: 16 Sunday: 54 Communed: 44
Bible Class: 10 Sunday School: 9

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

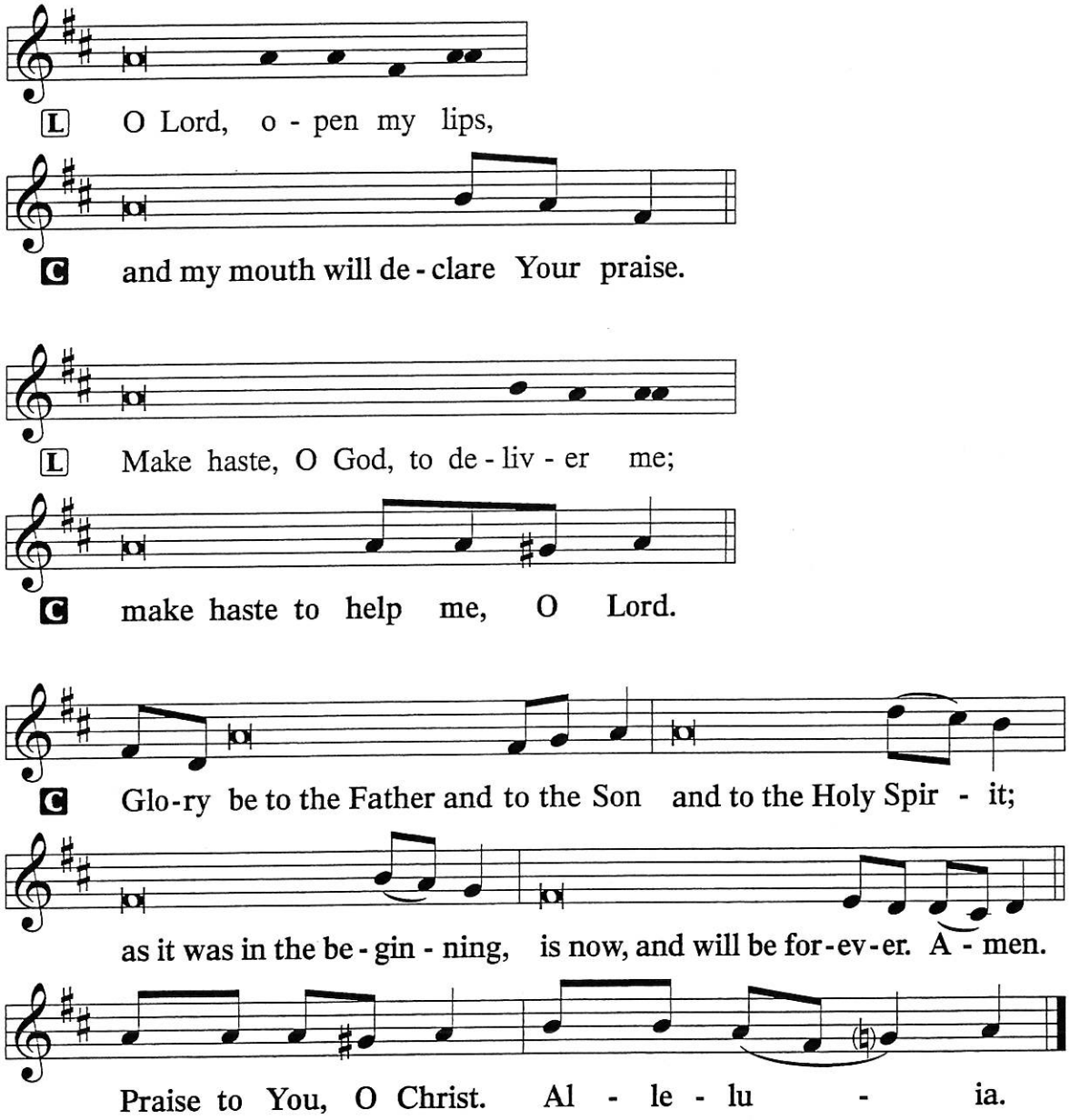
Prayer concerns to be included in our public prayers may be shared with Pastor Wood and/or the church office. Prayers may be for particular individuals or concerning wider issues. Let us pray!

- All members of Immanuel including:
  - At home – Carol Brockmann, Norbert Hasheider, Paul Lange, Deb Maschhoff, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Mike Strasburg
  - At Brightly in Mascoutah – Leonard Hemminghaus
  - At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado – Carol Wennemann
- Non-members: Betty Markowski, sister of Charlotte Durham; Crystal, Hasheider, wife of Matt Hasheider; Tim Schnitker, son-in-law of Sharon Storck; Mark Loder, brother –in- law of Pastor Wood
- That the Lord would continue to provide for his work in this place through generous giving, willing workers, and wise stewardship
- The staff, faculty, and students of Immanuel Lutheran School
- The educational mission of Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School
- All who work or study in West Washington County Schools
- John Trinklein, vicar in Long Beach, CA
- Reverend Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores, serving in Chile
- The mission work of the Southern Illinois District, including...
  - ...all congregations, schools, and district leaders
  - ...rural and small-town congregational support
  - ...urban ministry (neighborhood renewal and Unity school) in East St. Louis
  - ...campus ministry and international student outreach at SIU-C and SIU-E
  - ...prison and jail ministry in many locations
  - ...partnership with seminary in Dominican Republic
  - ...disaster response ministry (LERT)
  - ...Advocates for Life

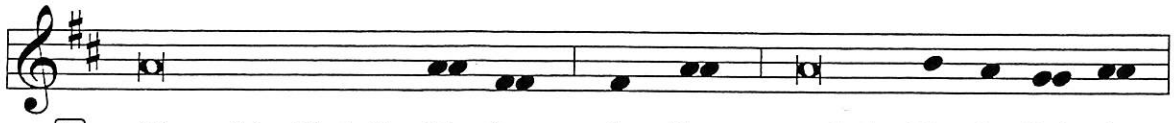
LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR
Order of Service - Matins

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive (Sunday)

Stand



Psalmody

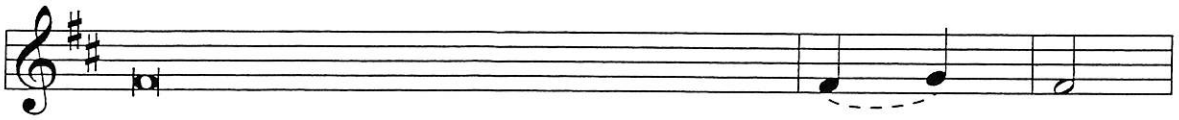


L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



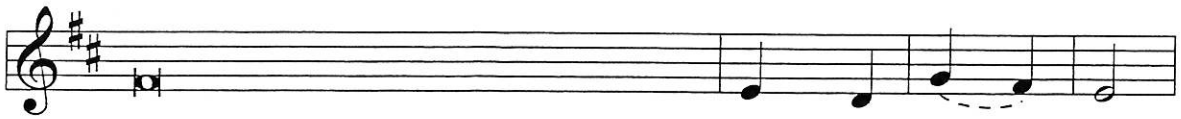
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite



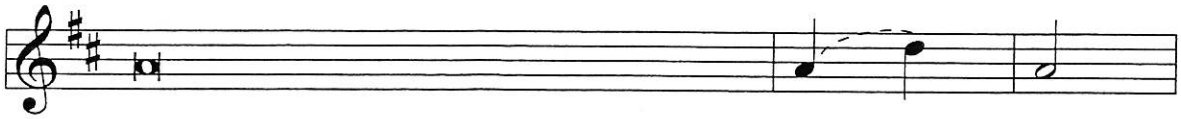
C 1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a . . . . . great____ God
3 The sea is His, for He . . . . . made____ it,

5 Glory be to the Father and . . . . . to the Son

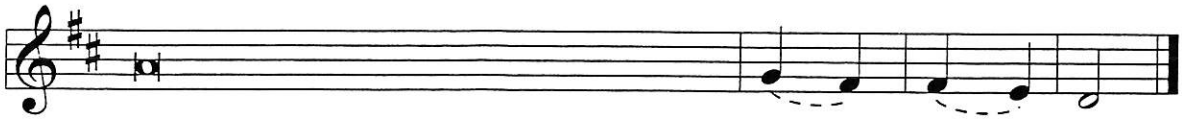


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great . . . . . king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand . . . . . formed the dry____ land.

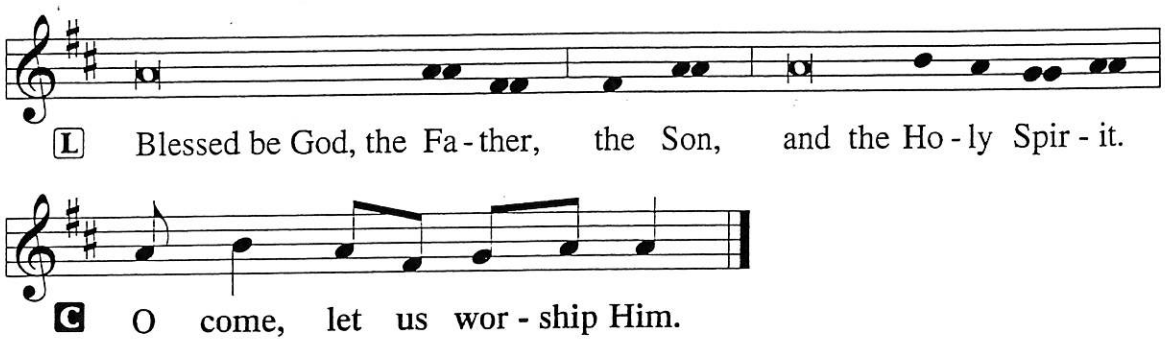
5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are . . . . . in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and . . . . . bow____ down,
4 For He . . . . . is our God,
5 as it was in the be - - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to . . . . . Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is . . . . . His____ al - so.
3 let us kneel before the . . . . . Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep___ of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - - ev - er. A - men.



Psalm (= Venite, which we've just sung!)

Psalm 95:1–7a; antiphon: v. 7a

[1]Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!
[2]Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;*
let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!
[3]For the LORD is a | great God,*
and a great King a- | bove all gods.
[4]In his hand are the depths | of the earth;*
the heights of the mountains are his | also.
[5]The sea is his, for he | made it,*
and his hands formed the | dry land.

[6]Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;*
let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!
[7]For he | is our God,*
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep | of his hand.

Sit

Readings

Old Testament

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

[11]"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. [12]As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. [13]And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. [14]I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. [15]I myself will be the

shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. [16]I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

[20]"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. [21]Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, [22]I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. [23]And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24]And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

[20]But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21]For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22]For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23]But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24]Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25]For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26]The last enemy to be destroyed is death. [27]For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. [28]When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

[31][Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32]Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33]And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34]Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35]For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36]I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and

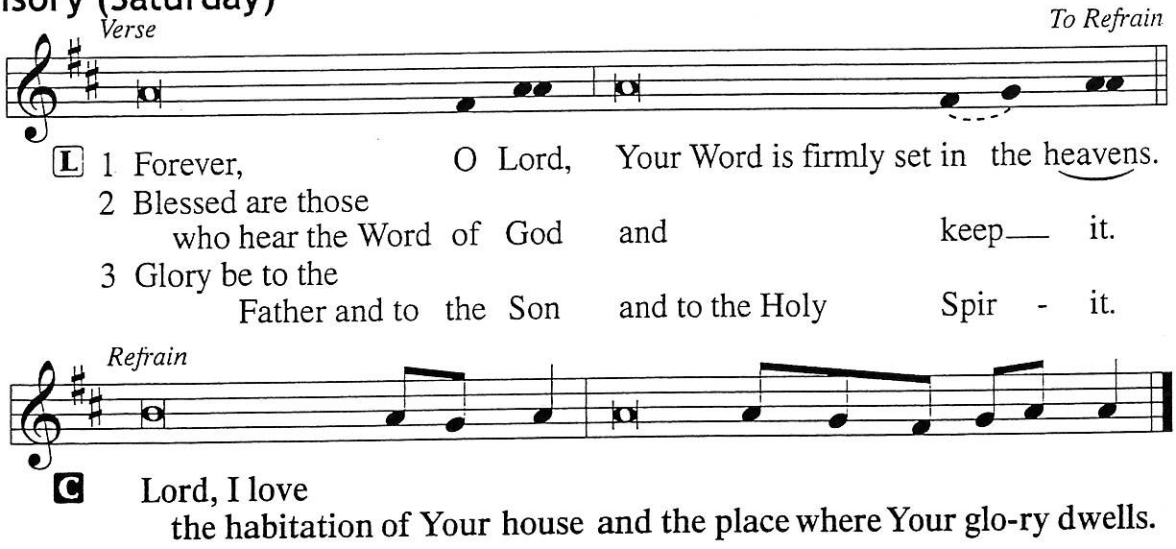
you came to me.' [37]Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38]And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39]And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40]And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

[41]"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42]For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43]I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44]Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45]Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46]And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory (Saturday)



"O Lord, I Love the Habitation of Your House (Sunday) (sung by the choir)

Sit

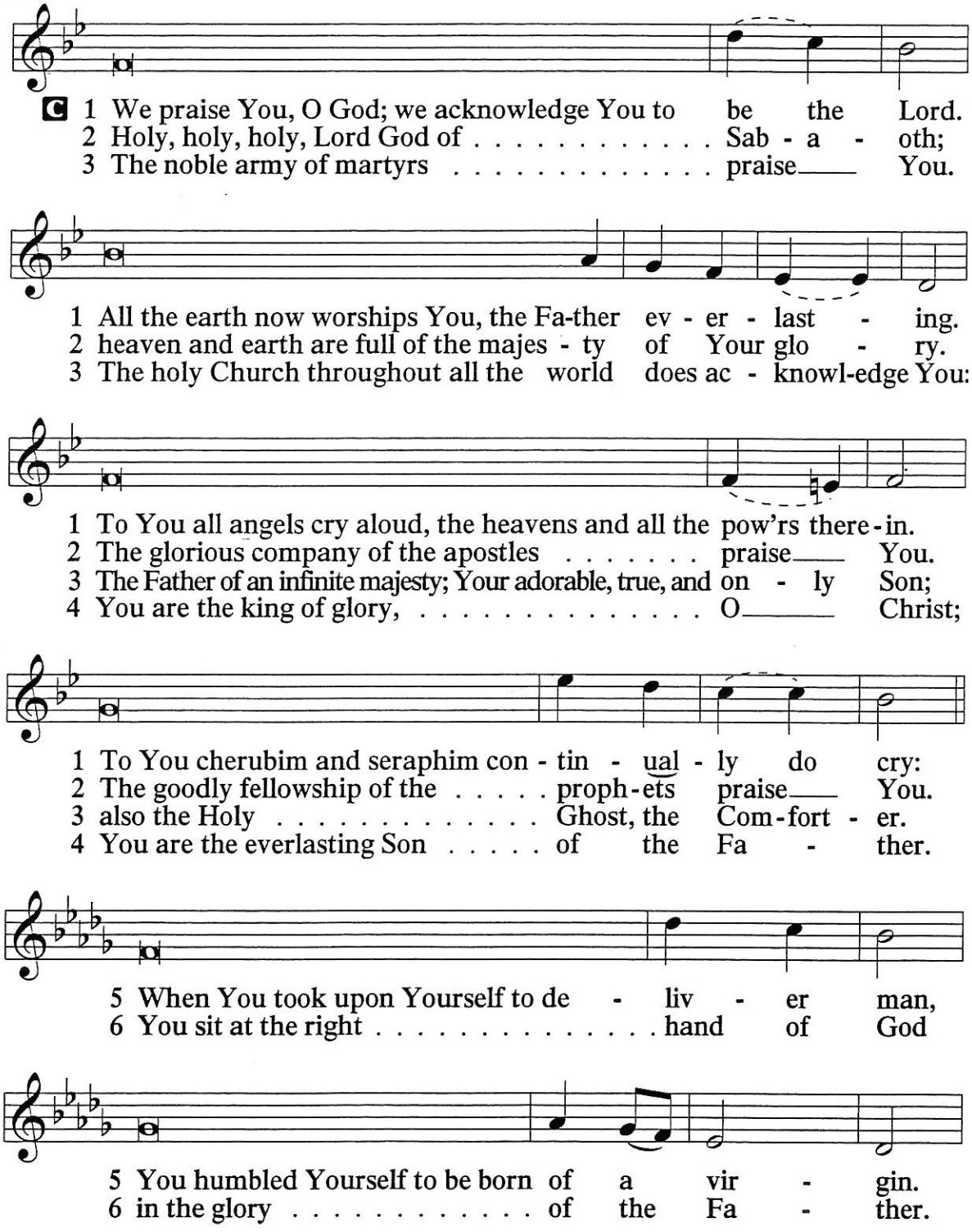
Children's Message (Sunday)

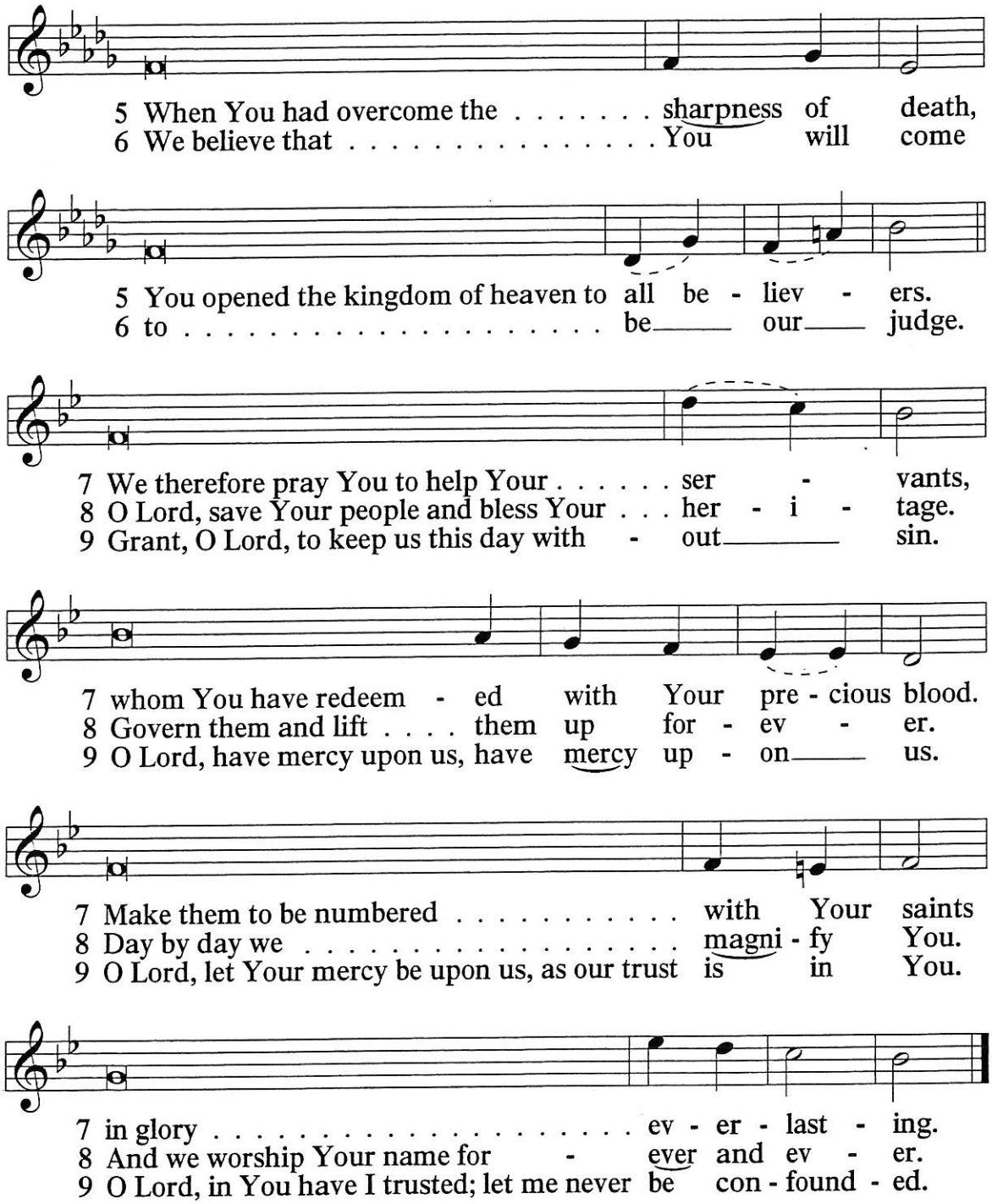
532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

Canticle

Stand

Te Deum





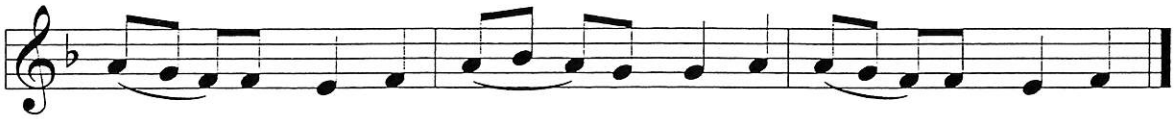
Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

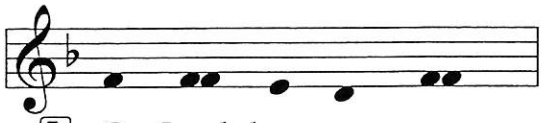


C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

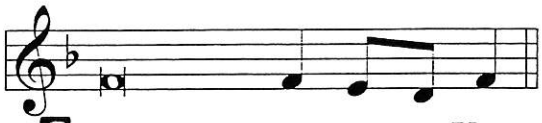
Lord's Prayer

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.

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

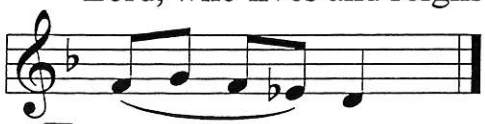
Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect for Peace (Saturday)

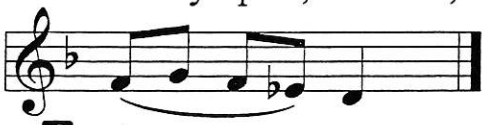
L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C **A - men.**

Collect for Grace (Sunday)

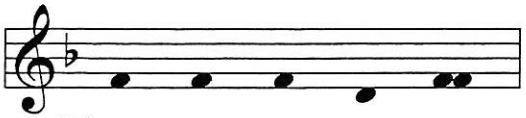
L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



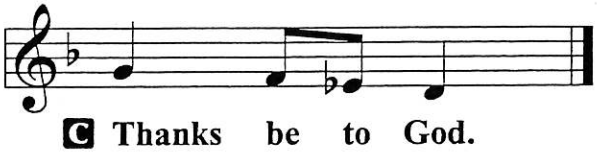
C **A - men.**

Stand

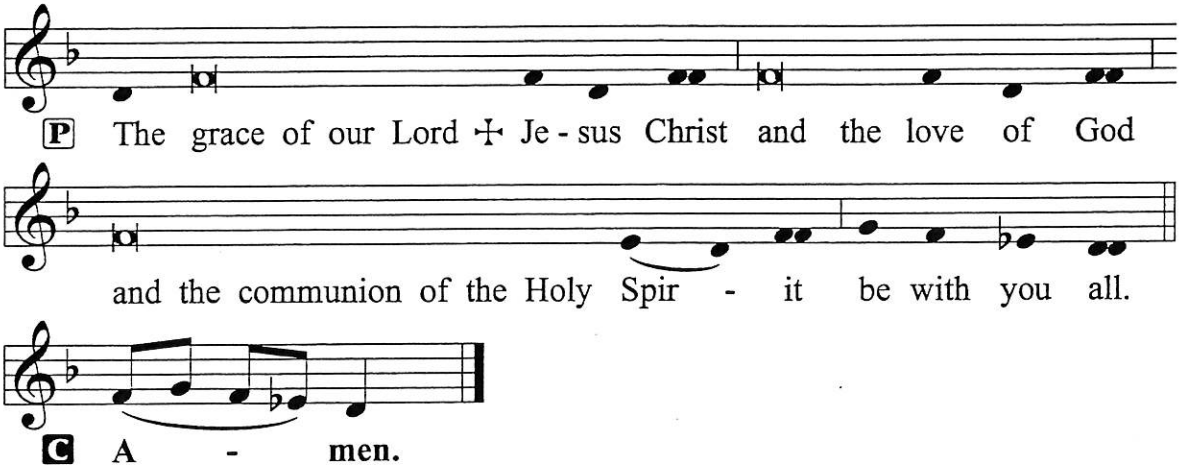
Benedicamus



L Let us bless the Lord.



Benediction



578 Thy Strong Word (Sunday)

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:	Eric Wood
Pianist: (Saturday)	Eric Wood
Organist: (Sunday)	Sharon Krueger
Acolyte: (Saturday)	Collins Schumacher
(Sunday)	Hudson Schneider
Reader: (Saturday)	Jackie Bening
(Sunday)	Sharon Storck

Birthdays 22nd Todd Schwankhaus, 23rd Linda Schuetz, 24th Megan Wienstroer, 25th Lyda Schroeder, Lisa Clark, 26th Roy Frederking, 27th Laura Obermeier, Nathan Stangle, Heather Strasburg, 28th Aaron Elliott, Gary Bergmann, Jordan Kuhlengel, Mason Obermeier

November Ushers – Saturday –
Sunday – Larry Hasheider and Nathan Hasheider

Saturday service at 5:30 p.m.
Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. studying the Apocrypha
Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.
Thanksgiving Day Service this Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

December newsletter information is needed in the church office by Tuesday, November 24th.

Thanksgiving offering contributions have been designated for the current fund debt reduction. Please give the current negative balance your prayerful thought.

Christmas Gifts for Needy Children This Holiday Season: Immanuel Lutheran Church & School will be teaming up again with Lutheran Child & Family Services this year to provide Christmas gifts for Needy Children!! Names, ages, sizes, wants, and needs will be available on November 15th in the narthex. Gifts need to be in the church basement no later than December 6th. Any questions please contact Jeff or Laura Obermeier (314-0849 or 314-0850), Kelli Borrenpohl (977-2451), or the school office (243-6142).

LWML members: subscriptions for the Lutheran Women's Quarterly magazine are up for renewal. If you would like to receive this magazine, please give $8 to Mary Ann Niedens by December 1. The magazine contains news about LWML, devotions, and Bible studies. It is a great resource for all things LWML!

Christmas Stroll: The Alumni & Friends will organize the food court and flea market for the Christmas Stroll again this year at the school. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the narthex for donations of soups & desserts and volunteers. The Alumni Board is very small so please sign up as soon and as often as you can. We need to make sure the schedule gets filled. Thank you in advance for anything you do to make this project a success!

Lutheran Witness renewals are due by November 27th. This year's annual subscription is $30.70. If you would like to continue your subscription or start a new one, please pick up a form from the table in the narthex and return it with payment or call the church office by the above date. Yearly subscriptions begin February 2026.

The Parish Ed Board invites all who are able to help decorate the church for the Christmas season on Nov 29 immediately following church. All help is greatly appreciated!

Poinsettia time is here. This year, Poinsettias may be ordered again in red, white, or multicolored (red/white). The price will remain $8.75 each this year. Please let Lois Obermeier know by December 6th at 618-977-5956, as white and multicolored are limited. Thanks in advance.

The Finance Committee will begin working on next year's offering envelopes. Please let Malinda know if you need or want a new box. The boxes will be the same as this year. We do have some members now using EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) for their contributions. Please contact Malinda at 618-713-5008.

We received an official letter regarding the battery energy storage system. A public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19. If you are interested in reading the letter it will be posted on the bulletin board.

SCHOOL NEWS

No School Nov. 25th -27th Thanksgiving Break

Key Cards

We are in the process of deactivating all key cards for the school that are not being used by past board members or teachers. If you have a key card and are not currently on a board or a teacher at this time, please drop it off in the school office or leave it on the table in the narthex so they can be picked up. We need to order additional cards but if we can collect past cards this may prevent us from having that additional expense.

COMMUNITY NOTES

The Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School choir and band will present their Christmas concert on Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Centralia, IL. (201 S. Pleasant Ave) The theme of this free sacred concert is LOVE - JOY - PEACE. Everyone is invited to attend!

GENERAL NOTES

Life Thoughts in the Church Year:

Today, Jesus gives a divine perspective on our neighbors. Jesus identifies "the least of these" as His "brothers" and tells us that when we love and serve those least ones, we are actually serving Him! (Matthew 25:40). St. Paul also reminds us that because of Christ's own death and resurrection, all people will be raised on the Last Day, either to life or to death (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). Together, this means that every single person, no matter their size, age, or physical condition, is a person whom Jesus has died for, identifies with, and who will be raised to live eternally.

Life Quotes:

"Immanuel, God with us. How reassuring are those words?! The struggles of life, personally and professionally, often take us to the edge of an emotional cliff. Thankfully, there is One to whom we can reach out and call out for help. We are not alone—God is with us every step of the way in our personal and our professional lives." *Gayle Irwin, Pregnancy Help News – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Stewardship:

Matthew 25:4 – "But the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps." Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the Bridegroom's words and believed what He told them. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of financial stewardship say about what you believe?

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Lutheran programs on Radio & TV on Sundays – 7:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. 850 AM Radio KFUO Lutheran Worship from a Lutheran church; 9:00 a.m. 104.7 FM Rev. Mueller, New Minden Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. TV Station "TCT" "Lutheran Worship." These are not a replacement for being in church and Bible class. These are for times when we are unable to attend in person.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Saturday, November 14th, and Sunday, November 15th were not counted.

Expenses for the week: $10,490.69

Borrowed: $10,000.00 on 06/30/26; $6,000.00 on 07/08/26; $12,000.00 on 09/14/26; $17,000.00 on 10/14/26; $30,000.00 on 11/12/26

Thrivent Choice: Immanuel Lutheran Church received $278.00 and Immanuel Lutheran School received $67.00 from "Thrivent Choice Dollars" designations in November. Thank you to everyone who directed their "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to Immanuel. If you have not contacted Thrivent Choice recently, please call 800-847-4836 to see if Thrivent has money set aside for you to designate it to Immanuel Church, Immanuel Lutheran School, or another designation of your choice. Money is available through the Thrivent Choice Program. This is not a donation coming out of your investment.

Kroger, Casey's and Box Tops will give cash back bonuses to our school. Check them out online or in store for more information.

Reminder: Bunker's Restaurant (Golf Course) will give 10% to Immanuel Lutheran Church if you show your bulletin from church when eating on Sundays. Thank you for your support!