



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
AVILLA, INDIANA
GOD WITH US**

Volume LXXXII

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9:30 AM

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For counseling needs contact Pastor Kuhlman for referral to Cross Connections. www.crossconnectionsounseling.com

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE – PAGE 151

HYMN No. 904 - Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

- 1 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.**

- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.**

3 Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

△ 4 Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

INTROIT – Psalm 119:9–16

P: Blessèd are you, O LORD;

C: **teach me your statutes!**

P: How can a young man keep his way pure?

C: **By guarding it according to your word.**

P: With my whole heart I seek you;

C: **let me not wander from your commandments!**

P: I have stored up your word in my heart,

C: **that I might not sin against you.**

P: Blessèd are you, O LORD;

C: **teach me your statutes!**

P: With my lips I declare

C: **all the just decrees of your mouth.**

P: In the way of your testimonies I delight

C: **as much as in all riches.**

P: I will meditate on your precepts

C: **and fix my eyes on your ways.**

P: I will delight in your statutes;

C: **I will not forget your word.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: **and to the Holy Spirit;**

P: as it was in the beginning,

C: **is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Blessèd are you, O LORD;

C: **teach me your statutes!**

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE - This Is the Feast



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb ——— who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray

C: O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 58:3–9

³“*Why have we fasted, and you see it not?*

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.

⁴*Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.*

Fasting like yours this day

will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵*Is such the fast that I choose,*

a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,

and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶*Is not this the fast that I choose:*

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry*

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸*Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,*

and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹*Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;*

you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle – 1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

*“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—*

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Holy Gospel – Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glo-ry to You, O Lord.

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them

*and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
20For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the
scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of
heaven.”*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 583 - God Has Spoken by His Prophets

- 1 God has spoken by His prophets,
Spoken His unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil,
One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, His throne eternal;
God the first, and God the last.**
- 2 God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word Incarnate,
God of God, before time was;
Light of Light, to earth descending,
He reveals our God to us.**
- 3 God is speaking by His Spirit,
Speaking to our hearts again,
In the ageless Word declaring
His own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast;
God abides, His Word unchanging;
God the first, and God the last.**

SERMON

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:1–16
Theme: Faith and Foundations

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

(there is a time for silent prayer)

After each petition

P: Lord, in Your mercy

C: hear our prayer

At the conclusion of the prayer:

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



C A - men.

HYMN No. 918 - Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

**1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.**

Text: William Williams, 1717-91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722-96, alt.; (sts. 2-3): tr. William Williams, 1717-91
Text: Public domain

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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WELCOME - We welcome all worshippers to our services at Immanuel this week. As God comes to us in Word and in Sacrament may we experience His love and His power in the singing of praise and the living of our lives to His glory.

VISITORS - Welcome all visitors this week. Be sure to pick up a visitor packet from an usher or from our Information Rack in the east entrance.

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP PADS -ALL members and visitors are asked to record their attendance at church and communion. Please return the record to the center aisle.

SERVICE ENLARGEMENTS, LARGE PRINT HYMNS & ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES - are now available for the service each week. It will include the service, hymns, and the insert of readings. They will be available at both entrances next to the bulletins. Please return them after the service.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TOTES - are available at both entrances for children age kindergarten and younger. Please return them after the service.

NURSERY - Exit the southeast door, the nursery is the third door at the bottom of the stairs. The first door is the lounge where you may listen to the service on the speaker.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the educational rooms of the fellowship hall wing.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the west Sunday school room. They are looking deeper into the Lessons of the Day for that Sunday Service.

CHURCH OFFICE - If you need to meet, speak, or make an appointment with the Church Secretary the office is open on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you need to meet or speak to Pastor Kuhlman you can always reach him on his cell and at his home.

Please note that the church will be locked at all times unless two people are present.

AVILLA FOOD PANTRY - Please do not forget the needy people in our community. You may place your food donations in the box in the east entrance.

BULLETIN BOARD - Cross Connection; Worship for Shut-Ins

FLOWERS – The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Billie Gienger.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

- Monday – 6 PM Elders, 6:30PM Trustees, 7PM Church Council
- Wednesday - Bible Study – 10 A.M.

PRAYER LIST- Prayer for the sick & recovering: Denny & Barb Weber, Susan Bremer, Paul DeLong, Amos DeLong, LaVon Graft, Ed Becker, young relative of a church member who is suffering mentally and parents who need wisdom and comfort.

NEWSLETTERS: March newsletter deadline is February 14th.

THANK YOU:

Saints of Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you for all the prayers, encouragement, and the generous Christmas gift I have received. It has been a blessing to be with you as I am being prepared for the pastoral office and I truly appreciate all the support. Travis Hartman

A thank you note was received from Noble House Ministries for our donation of towels.

A thank you note was received from Common Grace Ministries for our continued support of their ministry.

SIGN-UP SHEETS – Sign-up sheets for Lenten Suppers are on the table in the east entrance.

2023 ALTAR FLOWERS CHART - The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is up!! The price for 2023 is \$30 for 2 vases. If the flowers are donated in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please make a note of that. Make checks payable to Immanuel Chancel Society and place it in their drawer in the east entrance. The following dates are still available:

- October – 1, 29
- November – 12

PORTALS OF PRAYER: Portals of Prayer devotional books for January-March are available at the back of the church and at the side entrance.

LOOK UP - Looking Up is your first step to seeing past your struggles. Mental and behavioral health issues can be a silent battle. But there's always hope on the horizon. You can start by looking here for resources, information, and providers.

- <https://lookupindiana.org>
- Call 877-257-0208 - Available 24 hours every day
- Text LookUp to 494949 - Available 24 hours every day

INFORMATION RACK- last week's bulletin; extra newsletters; Visitors Packet; Portals of Prayer; Lutheran Witness; Cross Connection; Thrivent Dollars information; Lutherans for Life.

WEEKLY SERVICE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS are now on our website. The service can be found under Family Altar. The announcements in the bulletin each week can be seen on our website **under Blog and then correct month.**

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS:

Worship Attendance:

- Sunday Morning: 58 + Jesus

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – What is done for Christ reflects our praise.

ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUPS

- Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana
<https://mhanortheastindiana.org>
260-422-6441; info@mhanortheastindiana.org

Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana offers a free anxiety and depression support group on Wednesdays at 6 P.M. No formal diagnosis is required. The group is currently meeting via Zoom. Email Lacey Holt to sign up at: lholt@mhanortheastindiana.org

- Mental Health Grace Alliance
<https://mentalhealthgracealliance.org/your-personal-journey>

Mental Health Grace Alliance offers Bible study books that combine relevant Bible studies, neuroscience, and practical tools to help those experiencing a mental health difficulty to manage stressors, increase calm through rest and joy, reframe negative thoughts and nurture healthy relationships. These books are best used in small groups. *Living Grace* is a 16-week study for adults, and *Redefine Grace* is a 10-week study for high school and college age students. Materials are available online.

- NAMI Fort Wayne
<https://www.namifortwayne.org>
260-447-8990; faithnet@namifortwayne.org

NAMI Ft. Wayne provides free support groups for those living with mental illness and also for adult family and friends of people living with mental illness. Call the NAMI Ft. Wayne office to find out their current meeting schedule.