



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

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**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE – PAGE 151**

**HYMN No. 915 - Today Your Mercy Calls Us**

**1 Today Your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.**

**2 Today Your gate is open,  
And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome  
And pardon for their sin.**

The past shall be forgotten,  
A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav'n.

3 Today our Father calls us;  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## 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 143:1-2**

**P: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!**

**C: I have fled to you for refuge!**

**P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!**

**C: In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

**P: Enter not into judgment with your servant,**

**C: for no one living is righteous before you.**

**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: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!**

**C: I have fled to you for refuge!**

# 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



*Refrain*

**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 God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading – Genesis 50:15-21

*<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle – Romans 14:1-12**

*<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

*<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*

*<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written,*

*“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.”*

*<sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

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 18:21-35

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

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place,

*they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **HYMN No. 333 - Once He Came in Blessing**

- 1 Once He came in blessing,  
All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us;  
Hope and freedom gave us.**
  
- 2 Now He gently leads us;  
With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish.**
  
- 3 Soon will come that hour  
When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing  
Joy beyond comparing.**

**4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You  
Till in heav'n we bless You.**

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006  
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## **SERMON**

**Text: Matthew 18:21-35**

**Theme: The Trouble With Forgiveness**

## **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.

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## 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.



**G** 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.



**G** A - men.

## HYMN No. 611 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.**
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,  
Higher than the heav'ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me—wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.**
- 3 Only Jesus can impart  
Balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.**
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Christ is all in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known,  
All my sorrows are His own.  
He sustains the hidden life  
Safe with Him from earthly strife.**
- 5 O my Savior, help afford  
By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.**

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. All are invited to attend.

**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.**

**FLOWERS** – The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Bethel Buckles.

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS COMING UP:**

- Wednesday – Bible Study 10 am

**PRAYER LIST- Prayer for the sick & recovering:** Rogleio Martinaz, Amy Hestig, Joyce Bell, Tim Bishop, Steve Ferguson, Angie Hardiek, the family of Betty Heiman, young relative of a church member who is suffering mentally and parents who need wisdom and comfort.

**LWML SUNDAY** – will be celebrated Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be collecting mites. The mites are used to help fund mission projects. Please bring your loose change on October 1st for the special LWML mite offering. Let's make some noise!

**LWML RALLY** - The LWML Fall Zone Rally will be held Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at Zion Lutheran Church in Garrett, Indiana.

**DONATION DAY** - Donation Day at Concordia Theological Seminary is Tuesday, October 10th. If you would like to donate gently used clothing or food items, please bring those items to Immanuel and they will be delivered. If you would like to attend, you may do so on the tenth at 8:30 am in the Student Commons at the Seminary.



**FELLOWSHIP HALL** - While the basement doors are being painted and worked on in the Fellowship Hall, please refrain from athletic activities in the Hall to avoid possible damage and physical injury.

**THANK YOU:**

- Thank you for the Camp Lutherhaven Scholarship. My favorite part was playing capture the flag during evening activities Samantha VanGessel
- Thank you for the opportunity to go to Camp Lutherhaven for a week. My favorite part was playing beach volleyball. Amelia VanGessel

**DONUTS / MUFFINS / COOKIES** – If you would like to provide donuts, muffins, cookies, etc. for Sunday morning there is a sign-up sheet on the table at the east entrance.

**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2024** - We are going to be electing officers and board members in November. You will find a copy of the 2023 Board members and Officers in the September Newsletter. In reading the list you will see a number like this 1-2 next to each name (1-2 means first term, second year). We are getting an early start in finding congregational members that are interested in serving our Lord and Immanuel. If you are interested in any of the available positions (these will end with a 2 as the second number) contact a church council member. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteer, serve and help grow with our Lord's guidance!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** - Portals of Prayer devotional books for October-December are available at the back of the church and at the side entrance.

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

**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

**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: 81 + Jesus

General Fund Weekly Budget: \$3,329.37

General Fund: \$2564.00

- Youth: \$14.00
- Memorial (D. Buckles) \$20.00
- Memorial (B. Heiman) \$20.00
- Camp Lutherhaven \$225.00

Building Fund: \$100.00

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:**

May God's promises be your comfort.

## ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUPS

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