

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont Illinois
Last Sunday of the Church Year
Sunday, November 26, 2023, 11:00 AM

Thank you to Rev. Gary Fortkamp for leading services today.

Ringling of the Bell, Welcome

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 95:1-7

Reader In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the
Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*

Congregation Amen.

R Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

C Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

R Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

C: let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

R For the LORD is a great God,

C And a great King above all gods.

R In his hand are the depths of the earth;

C The heights of the mountains are his also.

R The sea is his, for he made it,

C And his hands formed the dry land.

R Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

C Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

R For he is our God,

**C And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of
his hand. Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
Is now and will be forever, Amen.**

Song "Here I Am to Worship"

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness.

Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You,

Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus: Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,

Here I am to say that, You're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all Days, oh so highly exalted.

Glorious in heaven above.

Humbly You came to the earth You created,

All for loves sake became poor. Chorus.

Bridge: And I'll never know how much it cost,

To see my sin, upon that cross. Repeat bridge, then Chorus.

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THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

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. ¹²As 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. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I 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. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

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

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

"The Wonderful Cross"

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown**

**O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless
Your name
Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all**

**Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all**

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31–46

³¹Jesus said: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then 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. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And 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. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I 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.' ⁴⁴Then 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?’

⁴⁵Then 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.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE EXHORTATION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalms 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalms 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S TALK

LSB HYMN 735 HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK

SERMON "THE CHURCH YEAR IS ALL ABOUT JESUS!"

(Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Sit)

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+ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

THE INTRODUCTION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C **Holy, holy, holy**

Lord God of heavenly hosts;

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, ... Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Distribution Songs

“The Power of Your Love”

**Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I’ve found in You.
And Lord, I’ve come to know the weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away by the pow’r of Your love.**

Chorus:

**Hold me close, let Your love surround me;
Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I’ll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with You.
Your Spirit leads me on in the pow’r of Your love.**

**Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord, renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life,
In living ev’ry day in the pow’r of Your love. *Chorus.***

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“We Remember You”

**In broken bread and the cup that we share,
We remember you.
In broken bread and the cup that we share,
We remember you.**

**We remember you, Jesus,
We remember your love for us,
We remember the blood you shed.
We remember you. (Repeat All.)**

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“Peace Be Yours”

**Peace be yours. May the Lord be with you
As we gather now and your whole life through,
Blessing and mercy and wholeness too.
May God’s peace be yours. 1**

**Peace be yours as you scatter from here.
Anywhere you go, God is always near,
Loving and calming your deepest fear.
May God’s peace be yours. 2**

**Seek your strength where the Lord does abide
When the greatest evil is at your side.**

**In Word and Sacrament, Christ resides.
May God's peace be yours. 3**

**Always know He has conquered the one
Who defies your life in God's only Son.
Yours is the struggle that Christ has won.
May God's peace be yours. 4**

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THE COMMUNION RESPONSE *from Luke 2:29-32, Spoken together*

**O Lord, now let your servant go in peace,
Your Word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen Your salvation
Which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of Your
people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray. . .

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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 Amen.

Closing Song "Soon and Very Soon"

**Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!**

No more crying there....

No more dying there....

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