

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

346 Shrewsbury Street

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*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

*Clarinet & Piano Duet
David Gustafson, clarinet & Osman Bilsel, piano*

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

sit

Celebration Song

One Big Family

Day by day we pray together, day by day we pray together,
day by day we pray together, one big family!

Refrain:

In Christ we are one (3x) One big family!

Day by day we help each other...

Day by day we love each other...

Children's Chat

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of Praise

Jesus Shall Reign

Hymn 434

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Lord and Savior

p. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of the Day

In Christ There Is No East or West

Hymn 650

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Music

stand

Offertory

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Hymn 674

Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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:

Sanctus

p. 207

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The 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 and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the feast. All is now ready.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Sit

All people are invited to receive communion today by coming forward to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find glass cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the last station, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; to indicate you'd like to receive one, please simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

p. 208

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

Communion Hymns

One Bread, One Body
My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Hymn 496

Hymn 759

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

stand

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Hymn 886

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the Good News!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Gym Coordinator – Walter Shanahan | gym@immanuelholden.org

Sexton – Don Roberts

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Jon Sprague, Jen Greene

Assisting Minister – Vickie Muller

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Ian Woods

Greeter – Linda Josephson

Coffee Hour Host – Elizabeth Siler, Duncan & Carter Gowdy

Altar Service – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey

Counting Team – Arlette Peterson, Sheri Parretti

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Monday	9:00 am	Lectio Divina (Zoom)
Thursday	6:00 pm	Men's Ministry Dinner
Saturday	10:00 am	Holden Days (come join our booth!)
	4:00 pm	Young Families Party at Dellecese Home
Sunday	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday:	Psalm 78:1-29, Deuteronomy 8:1-10, Romans 1:8-15
Tuesday:	Psalm 78:1-29, Deuteronomy 26:1-15, Acts 2:37-47
Wednesday:	Psalm 78:1-29, Exodus 16:2-35, Matthew 15:32-39
Thursday:	Psalm 85:8-13, 1 Kings 18:1-16, Acts 17:10-15
Friday:	Psalm 85:8-13, 1 Kings 18:17-40, Acts 18:24-28
Saturday:	Psalm 85:8-13, 1 Kings 18:41-46, Matthew 16:1-4
Sunday:	Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Thanks – to Osman and Bruce for leading us musically today while Claire is gone and to David Gustafson for blessing us with his musical gifts!

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God. *NOTE: If you would like to sign up for Sunday flowers, see the flower chart in Lawson Hall.*

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to coffee hour in the gym following today's worship. Thanks to Elizabeth, Duncan, and Carter for hosting!

Maker's Ministry Event – Join us after worship at coffee hour to make rainbow scarves, bracelets, hair ribbons, etc. using crochet and/or braiding that will be used as giveaways at events like Worcester Pride Festival. No experience needed but welcomed! Lisa Schaffter will have a table setup in Lawson hall each Sunday in August with all the supplies needed and be available to guide.

Holden Days – We need help with Holden Days again this year, which is being held this Saturday, August 22. This is a great opportunity for us to meet our neighbors, be a presence in our town, and share more about Immanuel. If you can help with a portion of the day, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/HoldenDays> to signup.

Young Families Picnic – All Young Families with kids are invited to join us this Saturday, August 22 for our annual end-of-summer picnic at the Dellecese Family home. Reach out to Natalie Dellecese at 913-302-4522 with any questions or if you didn't get the invite.

Garden of Feedin' – Now that the growing season is here, we need help tending our garden. Email Molly (mollyndamcarthur@gmail.com) or Kristin (kristinsundberg7@yahoo.com) if you want to help!

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 9:00–9:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 814 8663 8380 Passcode: scripture)

Backyard Campfires – You're invited to join us for some backyard campfires this summer! We'll provide company and s'mores supplies, and all you have to bring is a blanket or chair. Our last campfire will be on August 26, 6:00-8:00pm. Just walk around the back of the church building and join the fun.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits – During August we will be collecting supplies to make school kits. The following items are needed per kit:

- (4) 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper. No loose leaf.
- (1) 30-centimeter ruler, or dual-sided ruler (centimeters and inches)
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (1) blunt scissors (safety scissors w/embedded steel blades)
- (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons
- (1) 2.5" eraser

All donations can be dropped off in the narthex or Lawson Hall!

Kick-Off Sunday – Save the date! Our 2026 Kick-Off Sunday will be on Sunday, September 13! Together we'll kick-off a new year of ministry and jump into a fall full of growing, learning, and serving. We're also planning a picnic after worship! More details to come!

Positivity Pouches – Have you shared some positivity with our Youth Group recently? Drop a note of encouragement or some kind words in their pouches in Lawson Hall! Cards and small gifts encouraged!

Homeless kits – You can grab a homeless kit – and small bags of period products – from Lawson Hall for you to hand out to someone in need.

Communion Kits – Personal kits are available in the locker outside Lawson Hall. Each kit contains a pre-packaged wafer and grape juice.

Stephen Ministry – Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one, confidential care to those experiencing a difficult time. Please let one of the pastors know if you'd like to connect with one.

We are currently collecting:

Period Products – Unscented pads and tampons, individually wrapped, of all sizes and brands, handed out at Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Greeting Cards – New greeting cards of all kinds (except Christmas), which are given to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Bras – Bras in good condition of any size, color, or style, which will be given to veterans in need. Contact Mary Donev (mary@donev.com).

Wachusett Food Pantry – Non-perishable, unexpired food items for the Wachusett Food Pantry (serving all Wachusett Towns).

In Your Prayers this Week

Adrienne Altobelli, David Alward, Bruce & Janet Axelson, Isaac Barron, David Beams, Mary Beams, Bob, Heidi Besse, Grace Bialecki, Tina Bodnar, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Ken Cameron, Bonnie Colon, Colleen Davison, Alvina Debois, Lauren Demerjian, Christina Deyo, Lina Dickey, Kim, Kevin Duguay, Tom Durant, Jaeger Dziama, Jim Eisenlord, Gabriella Falk, Alan Farmer, Tim Fournier, Leah Frances-Woods, Linda Friedman, Sonja Githmark, Ann Marie Grambo, Victoria Graves, Dave, Dolores Hadady, Bill Higgins, Erika, Rich Hopkins, Robin Johns, Dick Johnson, Jan Johnson, Carol Jorgensen, Karen, Mackenzie Keogh, Ray Langevin, Jean Lane, Joan Lane, Noah Lane, Ayuen Leet, Meghan MacDonald, Cristie Marsh, Alwin Masselink, James Mellor, Darin Narum, Joanne Neal, Edna Opatka, Karen Papachristou, Francis Parretti, Russell Peterson, Don Phaneuf, Shirley, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Rich Reynolds, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Donald Shefer, Anita Slater, Marshall Smith, Wendy, Steven, Shirley Smith, Maria Taylor, Tony, Elaine Vetter, George Vogel, Scott, Becki Welch, Liz Wilson, Jim & Nancy Zelesky, and Jill Zitzewitz.