Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

346 Shrewsbury Street

Holden, Massachusetts 01520

(508) 829-4416

www.immanuelholden.org

facebook.com/immanuelholden

instagram.com/ilcholden

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

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, our dwelling place
for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

sit

Celebration Song *Give Me Oil In My Lamp* *Traditional*

Children's Chat Pastor Josh Ferris

stand

Hymn of Praise *O God beyond All Praising* Hymn 880

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.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

sit

Word

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

First Reading Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day
of the LORD? It is darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against
the wall and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the Lord
darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 I hate, I
despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I
will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted
animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your
songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll
down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about
those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have
no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so,
through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this
we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who
are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those
who have died.

16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call
and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and
the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in
the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage
one another with these words.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

stand
Gospel Acclamation p. 142
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like
this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the
bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the
foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took
flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of
them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout,
'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those
young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the
wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the
wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had
better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they
went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went
with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the
other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he
replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore,
for you know neither the day nor the hour."
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
sit

Sermon Pastor Josh Ferris

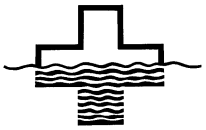
stand

Hymn of the Day *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* Hymn 327

sit

Holy Baptism

This morning we receive Elsie Charlotte Bentley into membership in Christ's church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Elsie is being presented for baptism by her parents, Katherine and Corey Bentley. Her sponsors are Thomas Lindberg and Taylor Breveleri.



Presentation

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate.

Today, we present Elsie for baptism.

Katherine and Corey, called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Elsie baptized into Christ?

We do.

As you **bring Elsie** to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Elsie grow in the Christian faith and life?

We do.

Thomas and Taylor, do you promise to nurture Elsie in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Elsie and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

The congregation joins in the following responses:
Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
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.
Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

Thanksgiving at the Font
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, who bids all who thirst to come and drink freely of the water of life; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Baptism
Elsie Charlotte, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The congregation responds:
You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Laying on of Hands and Sealing with the Cross
Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Elsie with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Elsie Charlotte, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome
Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

stand
Baptismal Hymn *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* ELW 445

During this hymn, you are invited to help pass the light as we remember our own baptisms and our call to share in God's mission of love and peace. After the hymn, you can extinguish your candle and then return it to the basket at the back of the sanctuary when the service is over.

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright & sparkling; compass them with love & light
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

Let us welcome the newly baptized.
We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Let us give thanks to God through acclamation and applause together!

Prayers of Intercession
United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
God, in your mercy,
Hear 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 *There Is a Redeemer* K. Green

stand
Offertory Canticle *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* Hymn 681
We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure—our humble, thankful hearts.
All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Offering Prayer
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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. 144

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

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
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 that has no end.
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. 146
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns	*Blessed Assurance*	Hymn 638
	O Jesus, I Have Promised	Hymn 810

Prayer after Communion
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, to do the same, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending

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

Announcements

stand
Blessing
The holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn *Soon and Very Soon* Hymn 439

Dismissal
Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

Ministers – the people of Immanuel
Pastors – Pastor Sarah Barnes
203-518-0327 | pastor.sarah@immanuelholden.org
Pastor Josh Ferris
360-244-9207 | pastor.josh@immanuelholden.org
Parish Admin & Online Ministry Coordinator – Jen Greene (M-Th)
508-829-4416 | office@immanuelholden.org
Music Director – Claire W. Paquette | music@immanuelholden.org
Nursery School Directors – Amy Drzik, Kristine Whittemore
Gym Coordinator – Walter Shanahan | gym@immanuelholden.org
Sexton – Don Roberts

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Ken Cranson, Elise & Eve Cranson
Assisting Minister – Mary Donev
Ushers – Craig Landquist, Jim Anderson
Greeter – Elaine MacNutt
Acolyte – Carter Gowdy
Children's Word – Kaylie Harrington, Annie Ferris
Coffee Hour Host – Lindberg Family / Fellowship Team
Altar Service – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey
Counting Team – Linn & Bob Watt

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)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour
Monday	8:00 am	Lectio Divina (on Zoom)
	9:30 am	Women's Circle (Room 5)
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Council Meeting (Room 6)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday	10:30 am	Thursday Morning Bible Study (on Zoom)
	11:45 am	Staff Meeting (Room 6)

Friday	9:00 am	Facility Management Meeting (Room 6)
Saturday	7:00 am	Men's Ministry
	10:00 am	Prayer & Share (Choir Room)
Sunday	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday: Psalm 5, Jeremiah 5:18-31, 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Tuesday: Psalm 5, Lamentations 2:13-17, Acts 13:1-12
Wednesday: Psalm 5, Proverbs 16:21-33, Matthew 15:1-9
Thursday: Psalm 70, Amos 1:1-2:5, Revelation 8:6-9:12
Friday: Psalm 70, Amos 3:1-12, Revelation 9:13-21
Saturday: Psalm 70, Amos 4:6-13, Matthew 24:1-14
Sunday: Zephaniah 1:17, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-8[9-11]12,
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

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.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to coffee hour in the gym following today's worship. We thank the Lindberg family for providing treats and the fellowship team for hosting today!

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by the Lindbergs in celebration of Brian & Kaitlyn's wedding and Elsie's baptism.

Altar Rose – The rose on the altar today celebrates the birth of Ashton Donald McCutcheon, who was born on October 29, 2026, to parents, Sarah and Isaiah McCutcheon!

Godly Play & Faith Quest – Our littlest learners are invited to meet in room 2 to explore the Parable of the Leaven. Readers are invited to meet in room 5 to learn about the Ten Commandments. Listen for the bell!

Adult Forum – Were you unable to attend the Calumet retreat? Pastor Sarah will share an overview of Becky McCoy's presentation on life's "little liturgies" and the workbook we used for the weekend in September. Join us in room 6! On November 15, Vickie Muller will lead an introduction to the ministry and craft of card-making and on November 22, Sue Swanberg, Kathy Mills, and Gabe Ellis will share stories and pictures from their trip this past summer to the Beverly School of Kenya.

Estimate of Giving Cards – Thank you to everyone who has returned their "Estimate of Giving" card. So far we've received 94 cards and are hoping to receive about 40 more. If you haven't done so yet, please fill out a card and return it to the office to help us budget for the year ahead. Grab one from the usher's table or use this QR code.





Servant Connect Forms – Have you filled out a Servant Connect yet? We're using these simple forms to help us connect people with ministry and mission opportunities that match their gifts and passions. Every member of our church is asked to fill one out! You can get one from the usher table in the back or use this QR code.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship – On Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm, we'll gather in worship to give thanks and praise to God. We're looking for 3-4 speakers who are willing to share a story of gratitude or thanksgiving. Let one of the pastors know if you're interested!

Help Us Bless Others! – Immanuel's Mission Endowment Fund will be giving away $14,000 in the year ahead to various non-profits, ministries, and charitable organizations. You can put your suggestions into the box at the front of the sanctuary, or simply email them to the church. Please submit them by November 22! These suggestions will be passed onto council and voted on at our annual congregational meeting in January.

Fall Clean-up Day – Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with our Fall Cleanup! (Or if we we're rained out, we hope to see you on Saturday, November 14!)

Monday Night Bible Study – The Monday Night Bible Study group will gather on Monday, November 16 at 6:30pm in Room 6. All welcome!

Lectio Divina – Lectio Divina is moving to 8:00am! Start your day grounded in scripture and prayer. Here is the **new link** to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89251738731

Confirmation – We'll meet on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00pm in room 6. We'll discuss Temptation and Wilderness.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – Join us every Thursday at 10:30am on Zoom! We're discussing the book of Romans and you're invited to the conversation! Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597

Prayer & Share – Our next meeting is Saturday, November 15. All are invited to join us in the Choir Room at 10:00am (bring your bibles).

Receiving New Members – Our congregation has been blessed with some new visitors and friends in the past months. While we don't yet have a date picked out, if you're interested in becoming a member of our church, please talk to a pastor.

Book Club – For November, we're reading and discussing *Joyful Anyway,* by Kate Bowler. Join us for discussion on Thursday, November 19 at 6:00pm in Room 6.

Young Families Gathering – Families with young children are invited to gather for Friendsgiving on Saturday, November 21. We will gather in the gym at 3:30pm. Evites were sent out this past week (talk to Pastor Josh if you didn't get one). Friends always welcome!

Women's Circle – We will meet again on Monday, December 14 at 9:30am in room 5 behind the kitchen. Jan Donadt and Cynthia Cloutier will bring refreshments, and Jane English will lead devotions.

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).

Little Library – Book donations for any age welcome in Lawson Hall!

In Your Prayers this Week

Adrienne Altobelli, David Alward, Bruce & Janet Axelson, Isaac Barron, David Beams, Mary Beams, Bob, Heidi Besse, Tina Bodnar, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Bonnie Colon, Dale, Colleen Davison, Lauren Demerjian, Christina Deyo, Kim, Kevin Duguay, Tom Durant, Jim Eisenlord, Alan Farmer, Tim Fournier, Linda Friedman, Sonja Githmark, Ann Marie Grambo, Victoria Graves, Dolores Hadady, Bill Higgins, Erika, Rich Hopkins, Robin Johns, Dick Johnson, Jan Johnson, Carol Jorgensen, Ray Langevin, Jean Lane, Cristie Marsh, Family of Alwin Masselink, James Mellor, Darin Narum, Joanne Neal, Mark Novak, Don Phaneuf, Shirley, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Rich Reynolds, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Arthur Savage, Anita Slater, Marshall Smith, Maria Taylor, Tony, Elaine Vetter, George Vogel, Scott, Liz Wilson, Jim & Nancy Zelesky, and Jill Zitzewitz.