**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**September 21, 2025**

Worship in person or online Sunday at 10 AM

See our website for the link: [www.immanuel-alameda.org](http://www.immanuel-alameda.org)

If you’re joining online and would like to participate in communion, please have bread & wine/or juice available.

Rev. Crystal Larsen Stewart · pastor@immanuel-alameda.org

Church: 1420 Lafayette Street Alameda, CA 94501; Office: [1910 Santa Clara Ave](https://www.google.com/maps/search/1910%2BSanta%2BClara%2BAve?entry=gmail&source=g).

(510) 523-0659 · office@immanuel-alameda.org



**THE GATHERING**

*The congregation’s parts are in****bold type.***

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN: *LBW#406 Take My Life, That I May Be***

1 Take my life, that I may be

 consecrated, Lord, to thee;

 take my moments and my days;

 let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move

 at the impulse of thy love;

 take my feet and let them be

 swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing

 always, only, for my King;

 take my lips and let them be

 filled with messages from thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

4 Take my silver and my gold,

 not a mite would I withhold;

 take my intellect and use

 ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine,

 it shall be no longer mine.

 Take my heart, it is thine own,

 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour

 at thy feet its treasure store;

 take myself, and I will be

 ever, only, all for thee.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you free us to love others,**

**but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,**

**but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,**

**but we grow weary in doing what is right.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Do not give up on us.**

**Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.**

**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus

and you are God’s children through faith.

In the cross of ☩ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**Amen.**

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (sung)**

***Pastor or Cantor:*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.**

***Congregation:***

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**THE WORD**

**First Reading: Amos 8:4-7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

 4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, 5 saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, 6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
 7 The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 113**

 1 Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.
 2 **Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**
 3 From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.
 4 **The Lord is high above all nations; God’s glory above the heavens.**
 5 Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,
 6 **but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**
 7 The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
 8 **enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**
 9 The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

**Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church’s focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6 who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**Gospel: Luke 16:1-13**



*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ 3 Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ 5 So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6 He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ 7 Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.
  10 “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *WOV#763 Let Justice Flow Like Streams***

1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,

 enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,

 an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,

 and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926. Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

**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 into hell. 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.**

**The Prayers**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need

*A brief silence.*

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones especially those on our prayer list. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other prayerss may be offered.*

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you**

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to you. Multiply what we give for the effective growth of your kingdom.

**OFFERTORY HYMN**



**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

**THE 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.**

**THE PROPER PREFACE:** It is indeed right and salutary…

**SANCTUS**



**PRAYER OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

***OR***

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those**

**who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

**COMMUNION SONG**



**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: *WOV#776* *Be Thou My Vision***

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;

 naught be all else to me, save that thou art:

 thou my best thought by day and by night,

 waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;

 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.

 Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tower,

 raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,

 thou mine inheritance, now and always:

 thou, and thou only, first in my heart,

 great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,

 may I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!

 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

 still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th-10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**PRAYER LIST**

*(Please call the office to add/or update the Prayer List)*

Dan Ganfield, Ann Miller Taylor, Don and Barbara Wilson, Marty Cosgriff, Charlotte Berndt, God’s protection for David Powell, God’s guidance and wisdom for Cameron, healing for Helene Rabe, Fred W. Taylor, Madeline McEntyre, Scott Tyler, Jim Lynch, Shirley Lustig, Barbara who is in hospice, Michele Hansen, Lisa Weathers, Matthew Allison, Antonio Jamir and family, Joann and Tye Peyton, Linda Fairless, Shamari Johnson Moore, Christine Fairless, Suzy and John Henry, Gudrun Schamoni, God’s protection for Rhea. David Forsyth, Phil Arthur, Ruth Wolf with cancer, Peter Dow, Francis and Rueben.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Fall/Winter Come Celebrate with Us Events:** Save the dates for the exciting events planned this fall and winter. See below for information and details.

**Trinity Lutheran Church invites Immanuel to their 3rd annual Oktoberfest,** Saturday, October 4th at 4:30 PM, $25 per person. RSVP by September 30th to 510-522-5220.

**Fellowship Hour:** We love spending time together after worship, please join us! If you’re able to help bring something yummy to share, the sign-up sheet is found in the Helen Room where we gather.

**Council monthly meeting**: The Council meets Wednesdays. Council will not meet in August. The next meeting is September 17, 2025 at 7PM via Zoom. Congregation members are welcome at the meetings,

**Next Dine and Connect, September 29, 2025:** This is an interfaith and community run program to feed the houseless and food insecure in Alameda.

**Immanuel Website:** You can find our weekly worship bulletin, worship live streaming links, church calendar, program announcements and much more online. Please visit: [www.immanuel-alameda.org](http://www.immanuel-alameda.org/)

**Donate to Immanuel Online:** It is important that our offerings continue to support our ministry. You can tithe to Immanuel several different ways including PayPal via the church website, through the mail: [1910 Santa Clara Ave](https://www.google.com/maps/search/1910%2BSanta%2BClara%2BAve?entry=gmail&source=g)nue, Alameda, CA 94501, or through the church mail slot located to the right of the metal gate on Santa Clara Ave. Thank you!

**Pastor Availability & Contact Info:** Rev. Crystal Larsen Stewart holds office hours on Thursdays. She can be reached by phone and email to schedule time for pastoral care and appointments.

Cell: 510-693-1974. Email: pastor@immanuel-alameda.org

**Church Office:** Hours vary and are available by appointment. Please call the office at 510-523-0659 and leave a message for pastor or volunteers. We are in need of more volunteers for tasks like the Sunday bulletin, organizing and checking voicemail; please call if you can help.

**Recycling:** Pure Recycling is available by volunteer Walter McQuesten-510-521-1356. Collects: Plastic: CRV, empty, crushed, bagged, no lids (put lids in own recycle); Aluminum: empty, crushed/flattened and separated; Glass bottles: clean and boxed. It is good to recycle!

 