

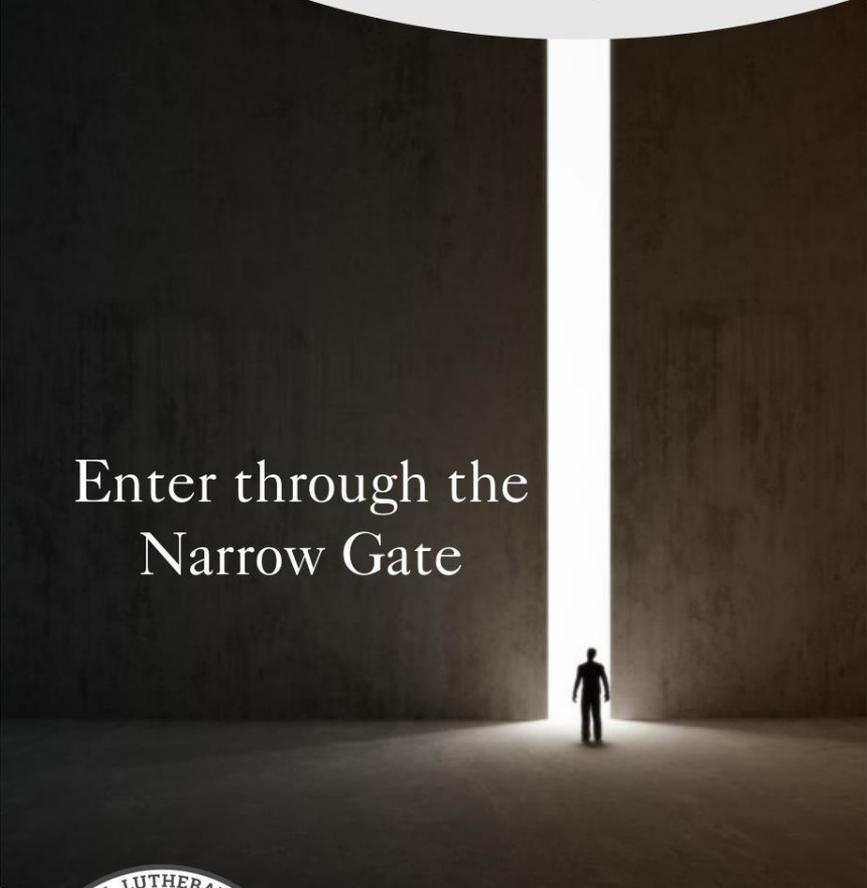
September 4, 2022

13th Sunday of Pentecost

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Joe Weller

Acolyte: Maxwell Kuehne



Enter through the
Narrow Gate



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PRE-SERVICE WELCOME

“So they (Paul and Silas) said;
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,
you and your household.”

– Acts 16:31

“So they said” . . . So the Church of Christ has said for nearly 2,000 years: Faith in Jesus Christ saves sinners. Paul and Silas “said” it because it was the truth concerning salvation as God revealed it to them when He “shone” in their hearts “to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2Corinthians 4:1-6).

This is still the message of all true Christian churches today. We proclaim the simple message of salvation without fear and without apology, even though the whole world of religious thought says otherwise. For the written Word of God still says what Christ and His apostles said. Jesus Christ is “The Way, The Truth, and The Life,” (John 14:6). “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

Man’s sinful nature has not changed in all these years. No amount of technological and scientific advances have removed any of man’s sins from him. How happy we are to assure the world that the love of God for sinners has not changed either. He is still saying: “Come to ME, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest . . . for your souls.” (Matt. 11:28-29)

Welcome!

A warm welcome to all who come to worship and grow in the knowledge of their Savior today. If you are a guest among us today, we hope you find what you are seeking. Better than that, we hope that the Word of grace makes a lasting, life-giving impression upon your heart. We regard our possession of the Gospel of Christ as a privilege of God’s grace – His undeserved kindness toward sinners. The sounding forth of the Gospel is what our church and fellowship is all about. Here at Immanuel we rejoice to proclaim the Creator-Redeemer God, our Help, our Life, and our Portion forever! We invite our guests to partake of His eternal riches with us. For what we have freely received, we would freely give. If the pastor may further serve your spiritual needs, just ask. Come again. You are always welcome among us.

Order of Divine Worship

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 63:1-5

P O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You;

P Pastor

C My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You

C Congregation

P In a dry and thirsty land

C Where there is no water.

P So, I have looked for you in the sanctuary,

C To see Your power and Your glory.

P Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,

C My lips shall praise You.

P Thus, I will bless You while I live;

C I will lift up my hands in Your name.

P My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness,

C And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

Hymn: TLH #239

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

THE INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P We have come here today to receive assurance from God that our sins are truly forgiven because of Jesus, and since many of us intend to come to the Holy Supper of our Lord, it is necessary that we examine ourselves. The pronouncement of the General Absolution as well as the forgiveness that is given in the Sacrament of the Altar are intended by our God for the comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins, and who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

P I ask you therefore, in the presence of Almighty God, Who searches the heart: Do you truly acknowledge, confess and sorrow over your sins, that by not doing what is good, and by doing what is evil you have grieved and offended your God and Savior by thought, word, and deed, and therefore deserve His eternal condemnation? If so, answer: Yes.

C Yes

P Do you believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, that He has redeemed all mankind from sin and its temporal and eternal punishment, and that all who believe on His Name receive the forgiveness of sins? If so, answer: Yes.

C Yes

P Do you sincerely desire that for Christ’s sake your heavenly Father would put away your sins; and do you intend to strive daily to live in holiness of heart and life, as the Holy Spirit gives you strength? If so, answer: Yes.

C Yes

P Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of His dear Son Jesus Christ, forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of the Word, I therefore declare unto you the forgiveness of all your sins, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

P Almighty, eternal, and unchanging God, increase our poor faith, make our hope strong, and our love more fervent. Teach us to humbly repent of our sins and cling to Your Word as to life itself, that we may not be left without our Savior on the Last Day, and fail to receive all that you have

promised. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 66:18-23 “For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. 19 I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. 20 Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord. 21 And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites,” says the Lord. 22 “For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “So shall your descendants and your name remain. 23 And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Hebrews 12:18-24 For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, 19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. 20 (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” 21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the [d]general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

P Here ends the reading of the Scripture lessons. Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and guard it. Alleluia!



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSON OF FAITH

The 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.

Hymn: TLH #279

“Today Thy Mercy Calls Us”

SERMON – Luke 13:22-30 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?”

And He said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ 26 then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ 27 But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”

KEEP ON STRUGGLING TO GO THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR!

OFFERTORY

C ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

– OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:



HYMN: WS #768

“Be Strong in the Lord”

GENERAL PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts!
- C** We lift them up to the Lord!

The Order of Holy Communion



P It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God: Who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 Sabbaoth, adored; Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat, This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." And the peace of the Lord will be with you always!

O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

A special note to our visitors:

We practice "Close(d) Communion" in accord with the practice of the Apostolic and Ancient Christian Church of the first four centuries, as well as the confessional Lutheran Churches since the Reformation. The Lord's Supper is no ordinary meal, and requires true understanding and faith in order for the communicant to receive its blessings. Therefore, in loving concern for those visitors, who are not members of the CLC (Church of the Lutheran Confession), and as a testimony of the closeness of our own faith and confession, we limit participation in the Supper. If you are

looking for an altar at which to commune, please speak with the pastor. Our practice is not a judgment of anyone's faith, but a confession of our own before God and before the world.us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated.

P Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting.

Depart in peace. Amen.

C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For
 light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es
tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your
bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

HYMN: The Thanksgiving (Tune "I Know that My Redeemer Lives")

Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!
Proclaim Your death until You come
To take Your ransomed servants home.

Glory to God, the Father, Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

HYMN: WS #784 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

✠ Announcements ✠

Last Week: WH – 26 Orlando - 10 **Total Offering** = \$1122.25 |

Gen. = \$502.25 | Tuition = \$500 | CLC Student Aid = \$20 |

- ✠ **Sept. 4** 9:15am Bible Class
10:15 am WH Communion
- ✠ **Sept. 4** Voters' Meeting
Education Meeting and Elders'
Meeting
- ✠ **Sept. 11** 8am Orlando Service
10:15 am WH Service
- ✠ **Sept. 18** 10:15am WH Service
- ✠ **Sept. 18** Trustees Meeting
and Church Council Meeting
- ✠ **Sept. 25** 8am Orlando Service
10:15am WH Service
- ✠ **Oct. 2** 9:15am Bible Class
10:15am WH Communion
- ✠ **Oct. 2** Quarterly Voters'
Meeting

Voters' Meeting After church today Sunday, September 4, we will be having a Voters' Meeting. We will be calling again for a full-time pastor. Please pray for the Lord's guidance. There will also be an Education and Elders' meeting.

Prayers Pastor Emeritus Jonathan Schaller, Mark Schaller's father, was taken home to be with the LORD on Tuesday morning, August 23. Tragically, he was struck by a car while walking and died from his injuries. We give thanks that our LORD has received Pastor Schaller, by grace in

Christ, to Himself in heaven. He was 93 years old. His victory service was Thursday, September 1. We pray that our LORD will comfort the family "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."

Cleaner (9/10): Bernthal | **Acolyte (9/11):** Seth Bernthal

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 5 -10, '22

Mon Luke 14:25-33 As great crowds follow Him, Jesus warns that it will not do simply to follow along with the crowd. The disciple must value the Savior beyond the great gifts in this life: family and friends. "Hate" here indicates "love less than Jesus," as is shown by the call even to hate one's own life. Jesus is a greater treasure than anything else that we have (v33)!

Tues Luke 14:34-35 The kind of disciples that God makes are like salt, which both seasons and preserves. But salt's value does not come from its appearance, from looking like salt. If it is actually not salty, without the attributes of salt, it is worthless. Jesus' disciples also are not just part of a crowd, but have the attributes which His Spirit gives them.

Wed Philemon 1-7 Even imprisoned in Rome, Paul rejoices and is comforted to hear of Philemon's faith working by love among "all the saints." He gives constant thanks to God, for He is really the source of true faith and love in all of Jesus' disciples.

Thurs Philemon 7-21 Remembering how Philemon's faith has been working by love, Paul calls upon him to receive his runaway slave Onesimus with the same love. Onesimus met Paul in Rome and came to faith through the Gospel which Paul shared with him. Now he returns to Philemon as a fellow-servant of Christ, much more valuable to Philemon than he had been before. Salt indeed!

Fri Deuteronomy 30:15-20 As the Children of Israel are about to enter the promised land, Moses addresses them, renewing their covenant with Jehovah God. Stressing the importance of their life with God, he shows that loving God means "hating" anything that comes between them and God, for that brings death.

Sat Proverbs 9:8-12 Another reading that speaks of hate and love. A wise man loves God's instruction, but the scoffer does not value it, and will not bow before Him. But such respect for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and leads to life (multiplies our days, v11).

The Master's Minute

(Adapted from radio broadcast, Columbia, SC September 3, 2007)

Welcome to the Master's Minute! It has been nearly 20 years since a practicing homosexual became a bishop in the Episcopal Church by human vote. The Bible clearly condemns the sin of homosexuality in several places. Because God has spoken on this matter, many well-known commentators, religious and secular, were astounded by the Episcopal decision.

But this is just one more sign that the "cafeteria Christians" continue to pick and choose which teachings of the Bible they believe are true and which are not, like the church secretary with whom I spoke some years back. When she was asked whether she and the clergyman she served accepted the O.T. account of Jonah and the Great Fish as true, she answered: "Not literally. Rather that story is true in the same way that Disney's story of Pinocchio is true."

How about a show of human hands to determine whether to accept the Genesis account of Creation as true, instead of the theory of evolution? Did the miracles of the Bible really happen just as they are recorded? Let's have a show of human hands! Why not reject 2,000 years of biblical, Christian teaching, and ordain women into the public ministry? Let's have a show of human hands!

So it has gone for many years in the churches, and the sleeping people in the pews think it doesn't matter. But it does. For the same Bible that is rejected by the know-it-all leaders in the churches, also reports that the Son of God lifted HOLY, human hands to the cross to earn forgiveness of sins and eternal life for us sinners.

Who can be taught by his pastor NOT to believe certain parts of the Bible, and still hold firmly to His Savior in the other parts? I can't. Neither can you. It's a matter of our eternal salvation!