

*Welcome to  
Immanuel Lutheran Church*

*Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888*

*September 20, 2020*



5955 S Elm Ave.  
Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706  
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Sunday Schedule:  
Outdoor Worship 9:00am  
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm via Zoom Refuge  
For Junior High & High School  
Call church office for contact information.

# *Order of Worship*

**Prelude**

**Ringing the Bells**      *Calling the community of Easton to worship*

**Welcome**      Pastor Taylor Stempniak

**Opening Prayer**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we invite you into our time of worship, and we thank you for the newness of life that only You can give. Give us a new heart and desire for you, that we may bring delight to You and be a powerful and loving witness to our world. Create in us a new heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

**Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor: Listen to these words as you reflect in your soul: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Please be seated*

### **Prayer of the Day**

Direct our hearts, O Lord, by your merciful reign, because without your help it is impossible to please you. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and Forever. Amen.

### **Reading of the Word**

#### **The First Reading**

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

#### **The Second Reading**

**Philippians 1:12-14,19-30**

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; <sup>14</sup>and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup>It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness,

Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — <sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Children will remain in their seats with their parents*

## **The Children's Sermon**

Pastor Taylor

### **Sermon**

**“Seek the Lord Where He Is Found”**

Pastor Taylor

*Please stand, as you are able, for the confession of the Apostles Creed.*

## **Confession of Faith**

Pastor: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*Please be seated*

**Offerings may be placed in the red offering bags on each corner.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **We Prepare**

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### **Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciple, 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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Communion Distribution**

Everyone should have a small communion package with wafer on top and grape juice below.

Raise your hand if you did not receive one as you arrived at the worship service, and an usher will deliver one to you. The pastor will say the blessing before the elements are received, so we may take them in unity with one another.

*Please stand.*

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **Post Communion Blessing**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**ALL: Amen**

### **Post Communion Canticle      “Thank the Lord”**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;  
Tell everyone what he has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord  
Rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He recalls his promises  
And leads his people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

### **Benediction**

Pastor: 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. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen!**

*Please be seated.*

## **Announcements**

### **Dismissal**

*P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!*

**C. Thanks be to God! (Sung) Amen, Amen, Amen!**

### **Postlude**

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## ***Announcements & Opportunities To Serve***

**“Daily Bread”** pocket size devotionals for September - November and **“Portals of Prayer”** for October – December are available on the worship table outside, in the narthex and in the church office. If you would like a book sent to you, please call Victoria in the office at 237-7909 and she will mail one to you.

**The fires in California, especially and Hurricane Laura** was what the Lord laid on our heart for assistance. The web site is [thenalc.org/donate](http://thenalc.org/donate), and the address, if that is preferred is: NALC Disaster Response, 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220, New Brighton, MN 55112

**Nancy Newsom's son Syd and his partner Andrea lost their home to the CZU Lightning Fire (Santa Cruz) on August 18-19.** Immanuel has set up a Care Bear disaster relief fund for them. If you would like to donate through Immanuel, you may send your checks to Immanuel Lutheran Church and in the memo put Syd & Andrea disaster. If you would like to donate online: click on the Care Bear line under choose designate funds and then note that it is for Syd Newsom. We will be taking donations through the month of September and then sending them one check from Immanuel.

**Amazon Smiles Program offers portions of your purchases donated to Immanuel.** When you shop on Amazon instead of going to amazon.com go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2737287> and our church will receive a small percent of your purchase.

**Change 4 Babies Fundraiser for the Pregnancy Care Center** will continue through September. Pick up a baby bottle and collect your change for their cause. You may also send a check directly to Pregnancy Care Center, 1127 E. Olive Ave. Fresno, CA 93728.

### **Prayers of the church**

**For Christ's Church:** *Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age. As we move into a time of transition, help us to know that though the world around us changes, You do not change. And while we may not know what the future has for us, You know what that future looks like and are already there, so call us to Yourself and give us the courage and confidence to step out in faith.*

**Members and their families serving in the military:** Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Michael Hansen, Caleb Hathaway, Scott Linger, Matt Ward, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

**Those unable to travel about:** Olga Hansen, Marilyn Iversen, Art & Marian Olesen, Phyllis Petersen, & Howard Nielsen.

**Those in need of healing: Those in need of healing:** Marilyn Bell, Connie Bennetts, Mike Bennetts, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Luanne Byrd, Gaye Cissel, Daniel DiPietro, Pastor Gary Gould, Jenny Lee Hodges, Linda Holland, Marguerite Johnson, Florence Johnston, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Eva Orum, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Virginia Pilegard, Tucker & Cooper Rister, Nathan Rivera, Pastor John Saethre, Timm Trickett, & Joe Wozniczka.

**For those who have lost their belongings to the fires in California. For Fire Fighters and other Emergency Responders who are battling the fires and the trauma. For protection to all who suffer from the bad air.**

**For people dealing with loneliness and depression caused by these pandemic precautions. For those battling the Coronavirus.**