

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone: (715) 842-3644

<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Lectionary 20, Year C

10th Sunday after Pentecost



Please welcome Kathy Robinson as she leads us in Worship today.

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Please stand if able.

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.

Gathering Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#656

Greeting: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

C: And also, with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

R: Word of God. Word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 82

R: Please read responsively to Psalm: 82

Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**

³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked. R**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;

all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,**

and all of you children of¹ the Most High;
⁷ nevertheless, you shall¹ die like mortals,
and fall like¹ any prince.’ ”
⁸ **Arise, O God, and¹ rule the earth,**
for you shall take all nations¹ for your own. R

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

R: Word of God. Word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

pg. 142

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God’s call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and

it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Pulpit Hymn “Open Your Ears, O Faithful People” #519

Sermon

Kathy Robinson

Silence for reflection.

Hymn of the Day “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” #759

Please stand if able.

Apostles’ Creed See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Rev. Doug Helling

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

After “Hear us, O God.” please respond with “Your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Hymn “We Plow the Fields and Scatter” #681 v1

The usher will bring up the offering plate.

Please stand if able.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

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

“How Great Thou Art”

#856

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Attendance on 8/10/2025: 27

Prayer Concerns: Mary Ann Klinker, Joan Bonstead, Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. Joan Winterhoff, Karen Spoehr. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Serving us Today

Leader: Kathy Robinson

Organist/Pianist: Dan L

Reader: Rev. Doug Helling

Ushers: Mike Schwede

Video Recorder: None

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, and Pattie Bricko

Important: There will be a Special Congregation Meeting called by the President Bob Henning on Sunday, August 31, 2025, at 9:15am. The purpose is to vote on the “Final Financial Distribution of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau, Wisconsin”. This is notification per Immanuel Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws, Page 15, Chapter 9. Congregation Meeting, C9.02.

We are so thankful for Kathy Robinson and all she has shared with us here at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wausau. Her warmth, energy, and love for serving others have been such a gift to our church family. As she heads to Michigan for her year-long internship, we send her off with our prayers, encouragement, and best wishes. God bless you, Kathy — we’ll be cheering you on every step of the way!

The Men’s Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

There are many scrapbooks available in the Conference Room for viewing. They are in fragile condition, but feel free to browse them at your convenience.

Join St. John on Sunday, September 14 for Rally Sunday! Worship will include a blessing of the backpacks as we kickoff our School Year. A fellowship potluck will follow and you are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Weather permitting, the kids will also enjoy the revenge of the water balloons from Vacation Bible School (which was postponed due to thunderstorms). Come cheer on the kids and watch the teachers get soaked!