

The Gathering

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025



Emanuel Lutheran Church

www.emmanuelnh.org
749-2163

Central Lutheran School

www.cluth.org
493-2502

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. David O. Stecker
Praise Team: Annette Carbaugh, Praise Leader
Todd Phillips, Keyboard; Pau Thupha Thang, vocals
Tobias Wise, KoKo Oo, Peter Czubakowski, Jason Miller, Instrumental
Elder: Steve Poling

Emanuel Lutheran Church is a united and growing family of Christians joyfully dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom.

† The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost †

WELCOME to those visiting us this Lord’s Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY ~ Everyone, please sign in! We ask guests to include your address, zip code and phone number so that we may acknowledge your visit.

AS WE GATHER ~ To be the “favorite child” in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, “Mom always did like you best.” As we gather with God’s people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. The psalmist wrote that “the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor” (Psalm 84:11). In the same Psalm 84 is the verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (v. 10). There is nothing better than for God’s favorite people, which we are, to be gathered in a most favorite place—which this is! It doesn’t get any better than that!

PRE-SERVICE PRAISE *Better Is One Day*
How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus: **Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,**
 Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere. *Repeat*

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells. *Chorus*

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God.
Your Spirit’s water to my soul. I’ve tasted and I’ve seen.
Come once again to me. I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You, to You.

Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day than thousands elsewhere.
Repeat and Chorus

WELCOME/SHARING OF THE PEACE

2

OPENING SONG

Mighty to Save

Everyone needs compassion, a love that’s never failing. Let Your mercy fall on me.
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior, the hope of nations.

Chorus: **Savior, He can move the mountains.**

My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.

Forever, Author of salvation, He rose and conquered the grave.

Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures; fill my life again.
I give my life to follow everything I believe in, now, I surrender. *Chorus*

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We’re singing for the glory of the risen King–Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We’re singing for the glory of the risen King.

You’re my Savior; You can move the mountains.
God, You are mighty to save. You are mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation, You rose and conquered the grave.
Yes, You conquered the grave. You rose and conquered the grave.
Yes, You conquered the grave. You are mighty to save.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

(Psalm 103:1–2, 8, 13, 21–22)

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

Pastor: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

People: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Pastor: Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

People: Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Pastor: Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PSALM 50:1-15

Pastor: The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

People: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Pastor: Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

People: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

Pastor: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

People: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!

Pastor: “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

People: Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.

Pastor: I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.

People: For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

Pastor: I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

People: “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

Pastor: Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

People: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,

Pastor: and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Shout to the North

Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King,
You are strong when you feel weak in your brokenness complete.

Chorus: Shout to the North and the South, sing to the East and the West;
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of Heaven and earth.

Rise up, women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts,
Who can know the healing power of our awesome King of love. *Chorus*

We’ve been through fire, we’ve been through rain,
We’ve been refined by the power of His name;
We’ve fallen deeper in love with You, You’ve burned the truth on our lips. *Chorus*

Rise up, Church with broken wings, fill this place with songs again
Of our God Who reigns on high, by His grace again we’ll fly. *Chorus twice*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 66:18-23 (ESV)

¹⁸“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain

Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. ²¹And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

²²“For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the Lord,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

²³From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the Lord.”

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 12:4-24 (ESV)

⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the

hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:22-30 (ESV)

²²[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ ²⁸In that place 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 but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat
You’re the Light unto my path.

SONG OF THE DAY

You Are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak, You are the Treasure that I seek.

You are my All in All.

Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.

You are my All in All.

Chorus: **Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless Your name,
 You are my All in All.
 When I fall down You pick me up, when I am dry You fill my cup;
 You are my All in All. *Chorus*

MESSAGE

On Your Terms?

Luke 13:22-30

STATEMENT OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence he will come 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. *Repeat*

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations,
 And your family and your children, and their children, and their children.
 May His presence go before you, and behind you, and beside you,
 All around you, and within you. He is with you, He is with you -
 In the morning, in the evening, in your coming, and your going,
 In your weeping, and rejoicing, He is for you, He is for you.
 He is for you, He is for you.

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.



Please remember to place your offering for the work of the Lord at Emanuel in the offering plate as you leave.