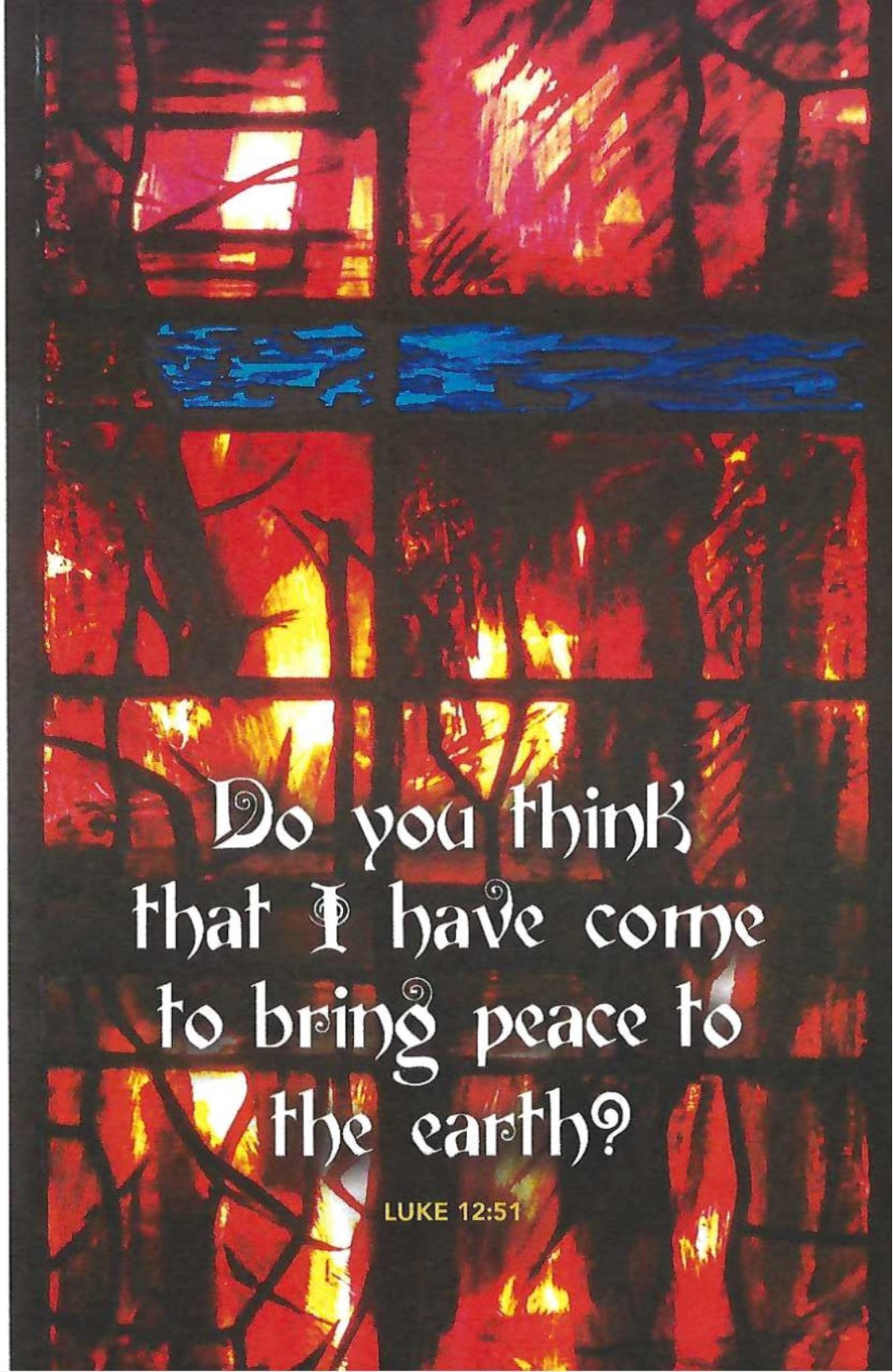
A Division That Brings Peace

Today's word is difficult to hear, but all too obvious at the same time. The message of God's governance among us, which lifts up the lowly and challenges the mighty, brings division. The good news brings division because some welcome it with exuberant joy, since it is the only good news they hear, and some resist it because it is a profound challenge to human assumptions about God, the world, and us.

We might be surprised to hear Jesus say he has not come to bring peace, but division. This is because he insists on a gospel of peace for everyone, not just a few. The division Jesus speaks of is not the goal, but it is the inevitable outcome of insisting that everyone is included in God's family. Division and conflict are the price he is willing to pay if that's what it takes to usher in a world of true peace rooted in God's mercy. Jesus paid that price when he was crucified for his faithfulness to God's welcoming way.

The church continues the ministry of Jesus when it enters into the fray of lifting up people the world deems unwelcome or lowly. Who is excluded or marginalized in your community? Why is this so? Does your church mirror this exclusion and marginalization, or does it transcend it with a welcome to those very persons left out elsewhere? What division has this faithfulness to the gospel caused?

The most wonderful witness the church gives, and the most divisive thing it does, is declare forgiveness to every repentant heart in Christ's name: the excluded and the exclusive, the lowly and the mighty. The most beautiful inbreaking of the governance of God is when humble persons gather around Christ's table, open their hands to receive bread and wine, and deeply embrace their own welcome and their neighbor's welcome at the very same table. In that sacramental moment, the peace that led to division turns into complete peace.



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Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 14, 2022

P) Christ is in our midst!
C) He is and always will be!

Hymn #865 *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* (red hymnal)

P) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C) And with you Spirit.

Hymn of Praise: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. 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, 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:

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm: Psalm 82

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Sermon:

Hymn #717 *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* (red hymnal)

Apostles Creed:
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator 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 is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Offering:
P) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. **Amen.**

Holy Communion Liturgy: (page 152 - front of the red hymnal)

Distribution / Spiritual Communion Prayer:

Blessing:
P) The Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. And the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now, and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn #424 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* (red hymnal)

P) Go in peace to Love and serve the Lord and your neighbor.
C) Thanks be to God!

Announcements, Birthdays, and Anniversaries:

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters (*especially*). Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (*concerns may be named*). In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints (*especially Maximilian Kolbe and Kaj Munk*) who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (Mary, Mother of Our Lord) Luke 1:46-55. **Tuesday** Acts 7:44-53. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 25:30-38. **Thursday** Psalm 103:1-8. **Friday** 2 Chronicles 8:12-15. **Saturday** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153) Nehemiah 13:15-22. **11th Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17.

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Celebrate

Sunday, August 14, 2022
10th Sunday after Pentecost

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."

Prayer of the Day

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.**

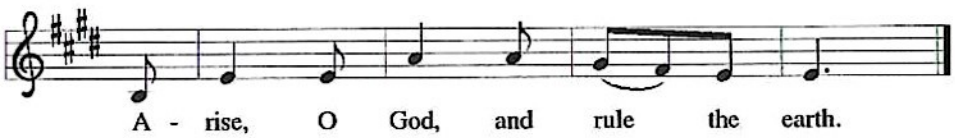
First Reading — Jeremiah 23:23-29

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.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and
not a God far off? [24]Who can hide in se-
cret 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 proph-
esy 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?

Psalm

Psalm 82; refrain, Ps. 82:8



God stands to charge the divine coun- | cil assembled,
giving judgment in the midst | of the gods:
2**"How long will you | judge unjustly,**
and show favor | to the wicked?
3Save the weak | and the orphan;
defend the hum- | ble and needy;
4**rescue the weak | and the poor;**
deliver them from the power | of the wicked. **R**
5They do not know, neither do they understand;
they wander a- | bout in darkness;
all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.
6**Now I say to you, | 'You are gods,**
and all of you children of | the Most High;
7 nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals,
and fall like | any prince.'"
8**Arise, O God, and | rule the earth,**
for you shall take all nations | 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.

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. 30By faith the walls
of Jericho fell after they had been en-
circled for seven days. 31By faith Rahab
the prostitute did not perish with those
who were disobedient, because she had
received the spies in peace.

32And what more should I say? For
time would fail me to tell of Gideon,
Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David
and Samuel and the prophets—33who
through faith conquered kingdoms, ad-
ministered justice, obtained promises,
shut the mouths of lions, 34quenched
raging fire, escaped the edge of the
sword, won strength out of weakness, be-
came mighty in war, put foreign armies
to flight. 35Women received their dead
by resurrection. Others were tortured,
refusing to accept release, in order to
obtain a better resurrection. 36Others
suffered mocking and flogging, and
even chains and imprisonment. 37They
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—38of
whom the world was not worthy. They
wanderéd 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 re-
ceive what was promised, 40since God
had provided something better so that
they would not, apart from us, be made
perfect.

12:1Therefore, since we are surround-
ed 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, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and
perfecter of our faith, who for the sake
of the joy that was set before him en-
dured the cross, disregarding its shame,
and has taken his seat at the right hand
of the throne of God.

Gospel

Luke 12:49-56

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

54He also said to the crowds, "When you
see a cloud rising in the west, you imme-
diately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it
happens. 55And when you see the south
wind blowing, you say, 'There will be
scorching heat'; and it happens. 56You
hypocrites! You know how to interpret
the appearance of earth and sky, but
why do you not know how to interpret
the present time?"

Spiritual Communion Prayer:
The Act of Spiritual Communion by St. Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Sanctuary Worship Services

Keeping in mind theological understandings and public health precautions we are using small steps for returning to the sanctuary. For the time being, Pastor and Council. ask in person worshippers to:

- Keep a social distance from one family group or another by sitting at different ends of alternate pews and wear a mask (available at the door) whether vaccinated or not.
- Sing hymns behind the mask.
- Doors will be open to maximize airflow.

The Church Council

The Church has a new phone number: 1-707-498-1046.

Friday August 19th Immanuel Ladies Luncheon
Immanuel Ladies, I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 19th at around noon for lunch. My address is 3002 Main St. in Eureka (It's just off of Upper Mitchell). It comes up in GPS but if anyone wants more detailed directions, please let me know. I would appreciate knowing if you will be attending, so I can plan how much food we will need. You may call or message me at **707-496-0804**. Looking forward to seeing you then, Jan Paulus

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Join Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Sunday 10 am Service

Meeting Zoom goes live about 15 minutes before the service and ends around 11:30 am. All attendees will be automatically muted when they join the meeting.

Join via Zoom Meeting click
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84655587701?pwd=Q1hMSFRRdDNhQXZTcisvUTNLdWN0dz09

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