



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp
229 11th Ave. West Grinnell, IA 50112
Office: 641-236-6691
Pastor Koepp's Cell: 507-829-3901
Pastor Koepp's Email: koeppj@hotmail.com
Church Office Email: immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net
Website: <http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org>

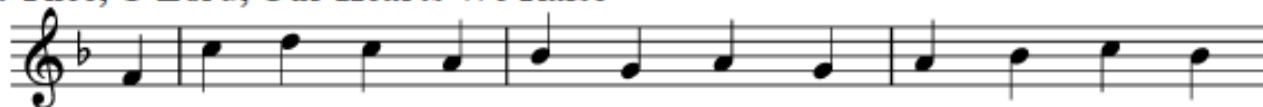
+ HARVEST OBSERVANCE/DAY OF THANKSGIVING +

November 17, 2021

As We Gather ~ *We Praise God for Sustaining Life in and through His Word*

The nation resounds with thanksgiving for the earth's bountiful harvest, crops of wheat and grains, all beneath the canopy of God's almighty care. But "man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord" (Deut. 8:1–10). The Church is the vessel through which the Word of God penetrates the world with its Law and Gospel. It is this divine Word which proclaims Jesus as the sole source of life, health, and wholeness. It is Jesus who heals lepers with His Word, "Go show yourselves to the priests" (Luke 17:11–19). Of the ten cleansed, only one expresses thanksgiving back to Jesus. But true gratitude proceeds from a heart sustained by faith. Jesus bids this one Samaritan to "rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." So also, we are sent from the Divine Service, bolstered in our faith by Baptismal and Eucharist blessing to be thankful in our circumstances of plenty and hunger, abundance and need (Phil. 4:6–20).

573 To Thee, O Lord, Our Hearts We Raise



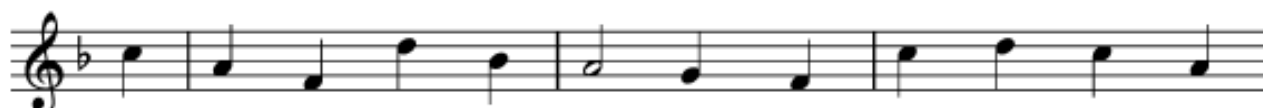
1 To Thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise In hymns of ad - o -
 2 And now, on this our fes - tal day, Thy boun-teous hand con -
 3 We bear the bur - den of the day, And of - ten toil seems
 4 Oh, bless - ed is that land of God Where saints a - bide for -



- ra - tion, To Thee bring sac - ri - fice of praise With
 - fess - ing, Up - on Thine al - tar, Lord, we lay The
 drear - y; But la - bor ends with sun - set ray, And
 - ev - er, Where gold - en fields spread fair and broad, Where



shouts of ex - ul - ta - tion. Bright robes of gold the fields a - dorn,
 first fruits of Thy bless - ing. By Thee the souls of men are fed
 rest comes for the wea - ry. May we, the an - gel - reap - ing o'er,
 flows the crys - tal riv - er. The strains of all its ho - ly throng



The hills with joy are ring - ing, The val - leys stand so
 With gifts of grace su - per - nal; Thou who dost give us
 Stand at the last ac - cept - ed, Christ's gold - en sheaves for -
 With ours to - day are blend - ing; Thrice bless - ed is that



thick with corn That e - ven they are sing - ing.
 earth - ly bread, Give us the Bread e - ter - nal.
 - ev - er - more, To gar - ners bright e - lect - ed.
 har - vest song Which nev - er hath an end - ing.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

Opening Versicles: Common

LSB 260

L This is the day which the Lord has made;
 C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
 L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
 C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

- C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- C Teach me Your paths.
- L Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C Your Word is truth.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C 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.

Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261

Refrain

■ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

With joy will you draw wa - ter from the

wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that

day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,

make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -

claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done
glo - rious-ly; let this be made known in all the
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

¹“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵“And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 65



¹Praise is due to you, O God, in | Zion,*
and to you shall vows | be performed.

²O you who | hears prayer,*
to you shall | all flesh come.

³When iniquities prevail a- | gainst me,*
you atone for our trans- | gressions.

⁴Blessèd is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell | in your courts!*

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your | temple!

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our sal- | vation,*
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the | farthest seas;

⁶the one who by his strength established the | mountains,*
 being girded | with might;
⁷who stills the roaring of the seas,
 the roaring | of their waves,*
 the tumult of the | peoples,
⁸so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe | at your signs.*
 You make the going out of the morning and the evening to | shout for joy.
⁹You visit the earth and water it;
 you greatly enrich it;
 the river of God is full of | water;*
 you provide their grain,
 for so you have pre- | pared it.
¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly,
 settling its | ridges,*
 softening it with showers,
 and bless- | ing its growth.
¹¹You crown the year with your | bounty;*
 your wagon tracks overflow with a- | bundance.
¹²The pastures of the wilderness | overflow,*
 the hills gird them- | selves with joy,
¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
 the valleys deck them- | selves with grain,*
 they shout and sing together | for joy.
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
 his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Luke 12:13–21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Responsory: Common

LSB 263

- L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Stand

Ten Commandments

- C You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles’ Creed

- C 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 T everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 264

C 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.

Sit

Sermon

‘Thanksgiving Character’

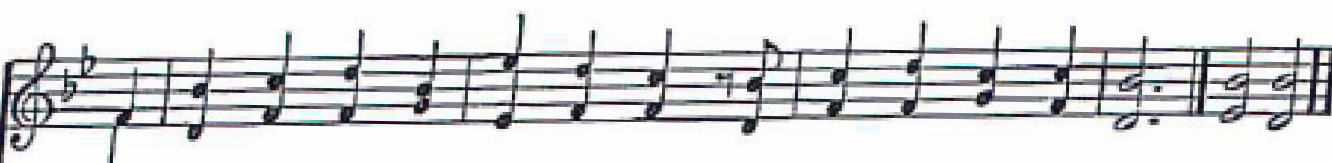
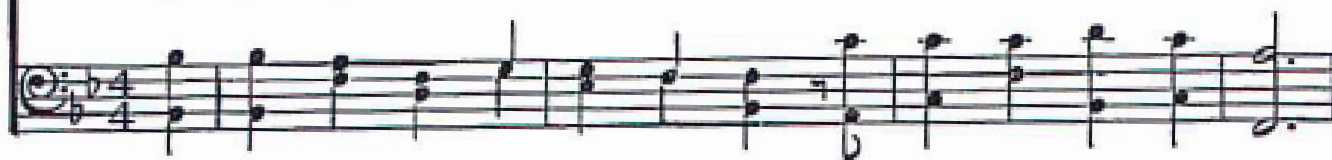
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

O Lord, I Sing with Lips and Heart

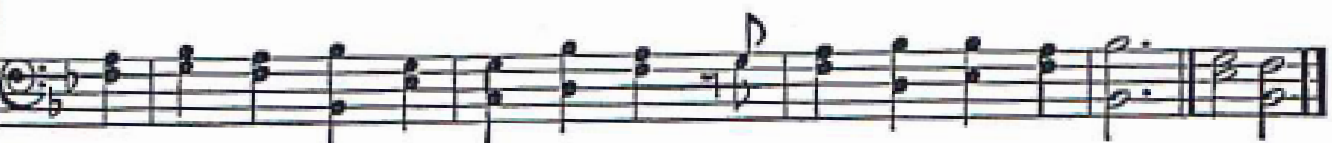
TLH 569



1 O Lord, I sing with lips and heart, Joy of my soul, to Thee;
 2 Thou art the Fount of grace, I know, And Spring so full and free
 3 For what have all that live and move Thro' this wide world be-low
 4 Who built the loft - y fir - ma-ment? Who spread th' expanse of blue?



To earth Thy knowl-edge I im-part As it is known to me.
 Whence saving health and goodness flow Each day so boun-teous-ly.
 That does not from Thy bounteous love, O heav'n-ly Fa-ther, flow?
 By whom are to our pas-tures sent Re-fresh-ing rain and dew? A-men.



5 Who warmeth us in cold and rain?
 Who shields us from the wind?
 Who orders it that fruit and grain
 We in their season find?

7 O Lord, of this and all our store
 Thou art the Author blest;
 Thou keepest watch before our door
 While we securely rest.

6 Who is it life and health bestows?
 Who keeps us with His hand
 In golden peace, wards off war's woes
 From our dear native land?

8 Thou feedest us from year to year
 And constant dost abide;
 With ready help in time of fear
 Thou standest at our side.

9 Our deepest need dost Thou supply
 And all that lasts for aye;
 Thou leadest to our home on high
 When hence we pass away.

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

- L Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, may we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

- L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Evening Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

582 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for-
ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its
teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text and tune: Public domain

Benedicamus

LSB 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 267

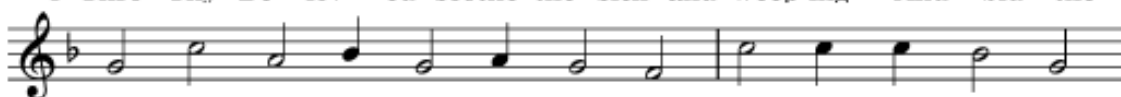
L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

556 O God, Be with Us



1 O God, be with us, for the night is fall - ing; For Thy pro -
 2 May e - vil fan - cies flee a - way be - fore us; Till morn - ing
 3 While we are sleep - ing, keep us in Thy fa - vor; When we a -
 4 Thro' Thy Be - lov - ed soothe the sick and weep - ing And bid the



- tec - tion we to Thee are call - ing; Be - neath Thy shad - ow
 com - eth, watch, O Fa - ther, o'er us; In soul and bod - y
 - wak - en, let us nev - er wa - ver All day to serve Thee,
 cap - tive lose his grief in sleep - ing; Wid - ows and or - phans,



to our rest we yield us; Thou, Lord, wilt shield us.
 Thou from harm de - fend us, Thine an - gel send us.
 Thy due praise pur - su - ing In all our do - ing.
 we to Thee com - mend them, Do Thou be - friend them.

5 We have no refuge, none on earth to aid us,
 Save Thee, O Father, who Thine own hast made us.
 But Thy dear presence will not leave them lonely
 Who seek Thee only.

6 Thy name be hallowed and Thy kingdom given,
 Thy will among us done as 'tis in heaven;
 Feed us, forgive us, from all ill deliver
 Now and forever.

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Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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ADVENT MID-WEEK EVENING PRAYER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 1 — 6:30pm
Stir Up the Power of Hope

Wednesday, December 8 — 6:30pm
Stir Up the Power of Preparation

Wednesday, December 15 — 6:30pm
Stir Up the Power of Love

Wednesday, December 22 — 6:30pm
Stir Up the Power of Joy

A meal will be served before each service from 5:15pm—6:15pm

There is a sign-up for the meals on the table in the entryway

Advent Write-up 2021

Stir Up the Power

As I get older, I find myself doing this more and more – prayer. In the services of the church, one comes across the word *collect*. But what is a collect? When asked, some may think, “Well, I guess it’s the collection. You know, when they take up the money.” This sounds like a reasonable answer, but if the collect is the collection, what’s the offering?

So, what is a collect? The short answer is a prayer. Each Sunday of the Church Year has at least one special collect that somehow relates to the season. But there are also collects to be said after Holy Communion. And there are collects for worship orders other than the Divine Service. There are collects for celebrations and special needs. The origin of this class of church prayers we can trace back to the apostolic age. They are mentioned by both Tertullian (155 – 240 AD) and Justin Martyr (b. 100 AD). We are not exactly sure from where the name itself comes, but there are several theories. One argues the collect is a prayer of the gathered assembly. Another argues the collect is a summary or collecting together of the petitions of those assembled. Another theory posits it is a collection of the various themes that will be found in the readings, thus tying the readings together and preparing the hearers for what they should be listening for the readings that will follow. This is the theory that is practiced in the Lutheran Church. The Collect of the Day collects the themes of the readings, while the Prayer of the Church collects the petitions of the church (and those assembled).

Collects are an important function in the gathering of God’s saints. As you may have noticed, the Collect of the Day is surrounded by two important features. First, the Pastor singing/speaking, “Let us Pray.” In this single act, the pastor is acting in his role as intercessor for the congregation. He stands in the Office of Christ, bringing the petitions of the people, on their behalf, to God’s gracious throne. Second, the people respond with, “Amen.” This word, which means, “Yes, let it be so,” is the acknowledgement by the people, and a confirmation that this indeed is their prayer.

The structure of The Collect of the Day is also important. It follows a general pattern that can instruct us in our own prayers. Typically it includes five parts: Address (O God...); Rationale (because...); Petition (grant that/help us/may we...); Benefit (so that...); and Doxology (through Jesus Christ... (If the Son is mentioned in the collect, it ends with “through the same...” If we are making a petition to Jesus, the collect would end with “in Your name...”

When The Collect of the Day is chanted, the various parts are marked by different tones. The address and rationale, praise and thanksgiving, are given on the same tone, then a lower tone is used for the petition and benefit. In this way, a musical contrast of joy/humility helps the hearer to demarcate the various parts of the prayer. Another practice is to have a moving sets of notes at the end of each section, marking when one ends and the other begins. In either case, it is simply meant to be a guide in helping us proclaim, teach, and commit the words to memory.

Why sing? Why all the chanting? Chanting is recitative singing, which occupies a point halfway between genuine speech and genuine singing, and is and should be nothing other than a loftier, solemn elevation of the tone and way of speaking by giving the important word greater resonance. Luther said, “next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in this world.” What does the Bible have to say? The word “sing” occurs more than 150 times in the Bible.

The posture taken in the Collect is also important. Take notice of when the pastor is facing which direction. When he faces the altar, he is speaking on the people’s behalf to God. When he faces the people, he is speaking on behalf of God to the people. As the pastor prays the Collect of the Day on behalf of the people, it is most proper for the pastor to be facing the altar. In a beautiful confessional act, the pastor brings before God the requests of His people, then will turn and speak the Word of God (His response) back to His people through the reading of His Holy Word.

The Collects of the Day for the Sundays in Advent take on a particular theme – Stir Up. These Stir-Up prayers will be the focus of our Advent meditations this year. We will be strengthened through these collects as we meditate on the Stirring Up of Hope, Preparation, Love, and Joy.