

Commitment Sunday

April 14, 2024



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

Gathering

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.

stand

Opening Litany for Commitment Sunday

Together, we will strengthen this sacred space

To continue gathering people into this welcoming community of faith.

We will preserve our sanctuary, our place of worship,

To continue nurturing our faith, passing it on to future generations.

We will tend to the buildings in our care

To continue growing in God's love and sharing God's love with others.

We will share this place of fellowship and community gathering

To continue serving God's world locally and globally.

We will prepare our spiritual home for those who come after us

In order to honor the past and embrace the future. Amen.

sit

Celebration Song

This Little Light of Mine

Hymn 677

Children's Chat

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Holy and Eternal God, you are the author of life and are present with the Church in every age. Prepare us to live our baptismal call and continue your ministry and mission in the world as the body of Christ. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading

Corinthians 3:5-11

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 78:1-7

¹Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

³things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

**⁴We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.**

⁵He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;

**⁶that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,**

⁷so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

p. 102

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is

to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of the Day

Build Us Up, Lord

M. Glaeser/D. Hanna

Jim Provencher, soloist; Jon Sprague, guitar

During this time of music you are invited to come forward and place your Centennial Capital Campaign commitment card in the baptismal font. May these commitments be one way that we live out our baptismal call together.

Blessing of Commitments

God of every generation, by your Spirit you have opened our eyes and hearts to a renewed vision of what it means to be your people in this time and in this place. Knowing that all things come from you, we gratefully share a portion of what you have given us. Use our gifts to accomplish the mission to which you have called us.

Amen.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Anthem

This Joyful Easter-tide

arr. By C. Wood

stand

Offertory Canticle

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offering Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

p. 107

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

sit

All people are invited to receive communion today by coming forward to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find glass cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the last station, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; to indicate you'd like to receive one, please simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

p. 112

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace,
grant us peace.**

Communion Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story

Hymn 661

As We Gather at Your Table

Hymn 522

Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

stand

Blessing

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Hymn 579

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Sexton – Don Roberts

Online Ministry Coordinator – Jennifer Greene

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (in sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Centennial Capital Campaign Coffee Hour
	10:30 am	Learning Hour
Monday	8:00 am	Lectio Divina (on Zoom) <i>Patriots Day (office closed)</i>
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (in sanctuary)
Saturday	8:00 am	Spring Clean-Up Day at ILC
	10:00 am	Garden of Feedin' Planting Day
Sunday	8:00 am	Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream Worship (in sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour
	10:30 am	Learning Hour

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Josh Greene, Lori Rabeler

Assisting Minister – Diana Powers

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Jane English

Acolyte – Tommy Wyatt

Greeters – Linda Friedman

Children's Word – Kristin & Frank Carnevale

Coffee Hour – Valeda Schmucki, Nancy Chanson

Altar Guild – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey, Bruce & Linda Kiefer

Counting Team – Linn & Bob Watt

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday: Psalm 150, Jeremiah 30:1-11a, 1 John 3:10-16

Tuesday: Psalm 150, Hosea 5:15-6:6, 2 John 1-6

Wednesday: Psalm 150, Proverbs 9:1-6, Mark 16:9-18

Thursday: Psalm 23, Genesis 30:25-43, Acts 3:17-26

Friday: Psalm 23, Genesis 46:28-47:6, Acts 4:1-4

Saturday: Psalm 23, Genesis 48:8-19, Mark 6:30-34

Sunday: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Commitment Sunday – Today is Commitment Sunday for our Centennial Capital Campaign! After the sermon, you'll be invited to come forward during the musical selection and return your commitment card by placing it in the baptismal font. If you need a new card, you can find additional giving forms near each entrance to the sanctuary. For everyone who has already submitted their commitment, there are smaller green cards that you can use to participate in this part of the service. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Children's Word – After the Children's Chat, our young friends are invited to go with our volunteers to the gym to worship in their own way. Kids will return in time for communion.

Thank you – We thank Jim Provencher and Jon Sprague for their gifts of music this morning.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to a special Capital Campaign coffee hour in the gym following today's worship. We thank Valeda Schmucki and Nancy Chanson for hosting today (and all those who baked)!

Pastors on Vacation – This week both Pastor Sarah and Pastor Josh are on vacation with their families. We give thanks for our retired Pastors George Vogel and John Nieman, who will be on call for any pastoral emergencies. If you need to reach a pastor, please call Pastor George at 508-769-8666 (primary) or Pastor John 508-829-6707 (backup).

Garden of Feedin' – Do you have a garden at home? Have you ever dreamed of starting one? Do you live near some dirt? The Garden of Feedin' is hoping you will *Grow An Extra Row* this summer! We will be giving out seed packets after the service today. Stop by our table during fellowship hour and find out how you can grow some yummy veggies for your household and share with our neighbors in need.

Godly Play – Our youngest learners are invited to gather in Room 2 as we continue to learn about people in the Bible. Join Pastor Sarah at 10:30am when we ring the bell.

Adult Forum – Jed Lindholm will lead a conversation on Ecotheology and Earth Day in Room 6.

Kids Express – Thank you to those who helped supply the meal this past week. Please see Verena or Brian Welch if you can help lead this ministry in the fall!

Spring Clean-up Day – Join us this Saturday, April 20, 8:00am-12noon to help with some much-needed outdoor spring cleaning. Bring your gloves and garden tools and join us! Coffee and donuts provided.

Planting Day – The first outdoor planting session will be this Saturday, April 20 from 10:00am to 12:00noon. All are welcome to join! No prior gardening experience needed! We will have tools available and seeds to plant. Feel free to bring gloves/tools if you have them.

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 8:00–8:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 854 5947 2625 Passcode: 684195).

Thursday Morning Bible Study – Our group will not meet this week because Pastor Josh is traveling. See you next week!

Book Club – For the month of April, we're reading *A Year of Living Kindly* by Donna Cameron. Join us in Room 6 for discussion on Thursday, April 25 at 6:00pm.

Communion Kits – Personal communion kits are located in the wooden trunk outside of Lawson Hall for those communing at home.

Stephen Ministry – Our Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life. Please let one of the pastors know if you or someone you know could benefit from talking to a Stephen Minister.

In Your Prayers this Week

This week, please lift up to God those who have requested our prayers:

David Alward, Bruce Axelson, Isaac Barron, Jane Bedard, Heide & Bob, Grace Bialecki, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Ken Cameron, Ed & the Clarke family, Ann Marie Cole, Ben Cranson, Colleen Davison, Barbara Demont, Jaeger Dziama, Jim Eisenlord, Alan Farmer, Bev Gingras, Joan Greene, Bill, Dolores Hadady, Marilyn Hildick, Erika, Robin Johns, Ken Johnson, Mackenzie Keogh, Sara Kern, Carole Laino, Samantha Lampron, Bev Landquist, Jean Lane, Jeff Larson, Meghan MacDonald, Joe Martire, Bob Mellor, James Mellor, Joanne Neal, Francis Parretti, Shirley, the Poissot family, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Kathy Richardson, Nancy Robinson, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Donald Shefer, Wendy, Diane Smith, Shirley Smith, Brad Sweet, Will, Elaine Vetter, Donna Vilian, Chris Webb, Liz Wilson, Jim Zelesky, Don and Jill Zitzewitz.