

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and the waters of life. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

sit

Celebration Song*The Lord Is My Shepherd*

Traditional

The Lord is my shepherd, I'll walk with Him always.
He knows me and He loves me, I'll walk with Him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with Him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with Him always.

Children's Chat*stand***Hymn of Praise***I Know That My Redeemer Lives!*

Hymn 619

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.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.*sit***Word**

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

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

p. 102

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay

down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Pastor John Nieman

stand

Hymn of the Day

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Hymn 502

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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

V. Thompson

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:

Sanctus

p. 108

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

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Hymn 484

Have No Fear, Little Flock

Hymn 764

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

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

Hymn 544

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Nursery School Directors – Amy Drzik, Kristine Whittemore

Sexton – Don Roberts

Online Ministry Coordinator – Jennifer Greene

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Ray Donadt, Kaylie Harrington

Assisting Minister – Jed Lindholm

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Ian Wood

Acolyte – Julia Langhill

Greeters – Jan Donadt

Children's Word – Elise & Dave Cranson

Coffee Hour – Heidi & Bill Lahey

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

Counting Team – Linda Josephson, Arlette Peterson

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	Coffee Hour (in gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour
Monday	8:00 am	Lectio Divina (on Zoom) <i>HERALD submission deadline</i>
Tuesday	7:00 pm	ILNS Board Meeting
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (in sanctuary)
Thursday	10:30 am	Bible Study (on Zoom)
	11:45 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Book Club (Room 6)

Sunday 8:00 am Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
 9:00 am Indoor & Livestream Worship (in sanctuary)
 10:15 am Coffee Hour (in gym)
 10:30 am Learning Hour

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday: Psalm 95, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 1 Peter 5:1-5
Tuesday: Psalm 95, 1 Chronicles 11:1-9, Revelation 7:13-17
Wednesday: Psalm 95, Micah 7:8-20, Mark 14:26-31
Thursday: Psalm 22:25-31, Amos 8:1-7, Acts 8:1b-8
Friday: Psalm 22:25-31, Amos 8:11-13, Acts 8:9-25
Saturday: Psalm 22:25-31, Amos 9:7-15, Mark 4:30-32
Sunday: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

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.

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Linda Josephson to remember her wedding anniversary.

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.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to join us for coffee hour in the gym following today's 9:00am worship. We thank Heidi and Bill Lahey for hosting today.

Godly Play – Kathy Mills will lead today while Pastor Sarah is away. Join her to help with a service project.

Adult Forum – TBA

Commitment Sunday – Thank you to everyone who made a commitment to the Centennial Capital Campaign. We will continue to accept

commitments, so if you would still like to make a commitment, please bring your form to the church office or put it in the offering plate.

Thank You – Thank you to Pastor John Nieman for preaching today and to Pastor George Vogel for providing emergency pastoral care this past week! Both Pastor Sarah and Pastor Josh were away this past week for April vacation, and we are so thankful to have these incredible retired pastors in our congregation who are willing to serve and bless us all.

New Endowment Working Team Forming – As we shared last month, recently our congregation received a roughly half-million dollar bequest. We are very grateful for this generosity and the way it will bless our church for years to come. Over the next few weeks, we'll be forming a team to do research and put together a plan for the use of these funds that will be presented at our annual meeting in January. This team will meet monthly. If you'd like to be part of it, please reach out to Pastor Josh and let him know.

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 – We invite you to join us this Thursday at 10:30am on Zoom as we continue talking about the Gospel of John. Here's the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597>.

Book Club – For the month of April, we're reading *A Year of Living Kindly* by Donna Cameron. Join us 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.

Meal Packaging – Save the Date, this year’s Meal Packaging Event is on May 18. Together, we’ll package thousands of meals to share with our neighbors in need. Volunteer sign-ups coming soon! We’re about \$500 away from reaching our fundraising goal, but our big goal this year is to involve as many friends and neighbors as we can! So make sure to invite a friend!

IHN Fundraiser – In the Hour of Need Family Shelter's biggest fundraiser, the Evening of Hope is Friday, May 10, 2024, at Brick Box Theater, 20 Franklin Street, Worcester. The evening's MC is Hank Stolz and includes performances by Cara Brindisi, Rob Joyce, Hip Swayers and Sheri Linn, and an online auction. Theater tickets are \$75, Livestream \$45. For tickets or sponsorship information go to ihnworchester.org.

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.