



“The LORD will guide you
continually...”

Isaiah 58:11

*Second Sunday of Easter with
Senior Recognition
Immanuel Lutheran Church
April 27, 2025*

Welcome to this place of praise and prayer.

We gather today in celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as part of God's family. We would appreciate having you sign our guest book so that we can remember your presence with us. Please note that in the ELW the page numbers are printed at the bottom of the page and hymn numbers are located at the top. The order of worship is outlined on the following pages.

The offering reminds us that all of life is a gift of God. We are stewards of that gift. In response, a portion of our income is given as an act of worship to do God's work in the world. Immanuel is a first-fruits congregation. That means that every Sunday when the offering is taken in, we give first to the mission and the ministry of the ELCA. We don't wait to see if we can pay our bills before we give away for God's mission. It is our hands doing God's work, for the sake of the world our Lord loves.

We serve Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and at all festivals. We offer an open invitation to all baptized believers to participate. It is our understanding that Christ offers his body and blood with the bread and wine to forgive sin and strengthen faith and life. If you receive communion in your home church, you are welcome to receive communion here.

FIND US ONLINE



www.immanuelcaledonia.org



www.facebook.com/immanuelcaledonia



www.lacrosseareasy.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Please note all **bold** text throughout the service is congregational response

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand as you are able)

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Friends and families of every stage, come and worship the Creator.

God created all cycles of life, all moments of growth, all endings and beginnings.

From newborn babies to older generations, come and celebrate life's milestones with delight and awe.

Whether crawling and babbling or participating with maturity, every stage is welcome in the family of God.

Jesus knows how it feels to grow, learn, and develop through life.

We follow the one who came as a baby, grew as a child, and lived as an adult.

Friends and families of every stage, come and worship together!

Let us worship together, in Spirit and in truth. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all generations, **we gather today to worship, celebrate and remember your faithfulness. By your grace, we have arrived at this day, and we take this moment to reflect upon the many blessings and hardships that brought us here. As we prepare our hearts and minds to worship, we cannot help but bear witness to where we have been and the challenges we have overcome. We**

cannot help but look forward with hope, knowing your work is not yet accomplished. Our futures are not yet written, but our paths are secure, for you are our shepherd, and you guide us into life and love. We gather to worship, remember, acknowledge, and reflect. May your Spirit attend to our thoughts and dreams, and may we find courage among your people today. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We worship today with joy and humor remembering that Jesus defeated death. But we still make mistakes in life and so we come to God humbly asking for forgiveness. Today, we confess our sins together through song and a familiar tune.

If you've sinned and you know it clap your hands
If you've sinned and you know it clap your hands
If you've sinned and you know it and you're ready to admit it
If you've sinned and you know it clap your hands

If you want to be forgiven stomp your feet
If you want to be forgiven stomp your feet
If you want to be forgiven and your turn away from sin
If you want to be forgiven stomp your feet

If you know that you're forgiven nod your head
If you know that you're forgiven nod your head
If you know that you're forgiven and you want your life to show it
If you know that you're forgiven nod your head

If you're grateful for forgiveness do all three
If you're grateful for forgiveness do all three
If you're grateful for forgiveness and you want your life to show it
If you're grateful for forgiveness do all three

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus Christ sacrificed himself for our redemption. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and blessed. Thanks be to God for God's eternal love! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

God Bless You Merry Sinner
(to the tune of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*)

God bless you merry sinner, you're forgiven it is true; remember Christ your Savior has lived and died for you, and lives again as King of Kings of saint and sinner, too. Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy. Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

In Jerusalem at Calvary that dismal Friday morn, amid the pain and suffering eternal life was born. It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn. Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy. Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

So sing an halleluiah, for our Savior's victory, and shout to all Hosanna, that we have been set free, from sin and death and devil's grip throughout eternity. We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy. Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And

we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN (INTRO)

Christ Has Arisen Alleluia vs. 1

#364

WORD FOR KIDS

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ho, Ho, Ho, Hosanna

Ho, ho, ho, hosanna

Ha, ha, hallelujah

He, he, he, he saved me,

I’ve got the joy of the Lord!

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John, chapter 20. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

(Congregation may be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Steve Meyer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#841

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The response to each prayer will be, “Lord, in your mercy,”

Congregation reply will be, **“hear our prayer.”**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are welcome to send a text or email to share peace with others.

OFFERING

(Offerings may be placed in the wooden offering box as you leave the sanctuary)

OFFERING RESPONSE

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

#721

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death; vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, **maker of all things**. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

GRADUATE HYMN

Borning Cry

#732

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Sarah Jane Babinski, daughter of Jeff and Tricia Babinski

Future Plans: Sarah Jane will be pursuing a degree in Fine Arts with a Music minor.
Favorite Immanuel Memory: Sarah Jane's favorite Immanuel memory is the first Christmas Eve church service that her family attended at Immanuel. She especially loved it when everyone sang *Silent Night* with their candles held high.

Tanner Ginther, son of Jena and Matt Ginther

Future Plans: Tanner plans on attending North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) for Nursing.
Favorite Immanuel Memory: My favorite church memory is talking and hanging out with my friends while learning about Jesus' story at Sunday school.

Carson Klug, son of Cory and Shannon Klug

Future Plans: Carson plans to attend Western Technical College in the fall to study Diesel Mechanics.
Favorite Immanuel Memory: Carson's favorite memories are the church ski trips

Preston James Kuennen, son of Cheryl and Jess Kuennen

Future Plans: Preston plans to attend Hawkeye Community College to study in the Civil Engineering Program.

Favorite Immanuel Memory: Preston remembers most the church ski trips.

Gabriel Cody Lancaster, son of Nicole and Andrew Flugge and Cody Lancaster

Future Plans: Cody plans to work as a Paraprofessional.

Favorite Immanuel Memory: Sunday school, especially during Christmas time.

Noah Philip Meyer, son of Julie O'Mara Dodson and Bill Meyer

Future Plans: Noah will attend Western Technical College prior to a University.

Favorite Immanuel Memory: Noah's favorite memory is shaking hands and chatting with Pastor Meyer after church.

Liv Myhre, daughter of Francis and Heather Myhre

Future Plans: Liv will be attending Winona State University to play volleyball and major in Nursing and minor in Child Advocacy Studies.

Favorite Immanuel Memory: My favorite church memory is being with all my classmates during Sunday school, as well as my confirmation because all my family was in town to come to our church and celebrate.

Johnathan O'Heron, son of Arien and Nick O'Heron

Future Plans: Johnathan plans to work after high school while deliberating what to major in when attending Western Technical College next year.

Favorite Immanuel Memory: One of my favorite church memories was going to Sugar Creek Bible Camp one summer with Preston and Greysen and playing gaga ball there. Also, volunteering at last year's meatball supper was a fun time.

Greysen Proulx, son of Ashley Proulx

Future Plans: Greysen plans to attend Saint Cloud Technical Community College and focus in Sales and Marketing. He aspires to "have his own family, enjoy life, and contribute positively to the world" around him.

Favorite Immanuel Memory: Greysen enjoyed going to Sunday school every week when he was younger and Bible camp most summers. He really enjoyed getting away from home, meeting people, and having fun at camp. He also loved playing games in the church. He really enjoyed the one where they turned off all the lights and played hide and go seek.

Harper Reed, daughter of Jessica Reed and Dan Vesterse

Future Plans: Harper plans to attend UW-Stout in the fall to major in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry.

Gabrielle Faith Schuldt, daughter of Matt and Melissa Schuldt

Future Plans: Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato for Social Work.

Favorite Immanuel Memory: Gabrielle really enjoyed Sunday school.

PRESENTATION OF QUILTS

Bonnie Tollefson

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

*Immanuel/Anderson & Leland Schulze Scholarships &
Thrivent Choice Dollars Scholarships*

Holly Becker

Immanuel Lutheran and Elmer & Doris Anderson Scholarship (\$250), Leland Schulze (\$300), and Thrivent Choice Dollars Scholarship (\$250)

- **Nicole Flugge:** Ephesians 4:32; “And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you.”
- **Tanner Ginther:** Jeremiah 29:11; “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”
- **Kennedy Hansen:** Philippians 4:13; “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- **Carson Klug:** Proverbs 3:5-6; “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

- **Connor Klug:** Deuteronomy 31:6; “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- **Preston Kuennen:** Psalm 23:4; “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me your rod and your staff they comfort me.”
- **Noah Meyer:** Proverbs 24:16; “The righteous man falls seven times and yet rises again.”
- **Grace Myhre:** Luke 6:31; “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
- **Liv Myhre:** Isaiah 41:10; “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
- **Greysen Proulx:** Hebrews 12:1; “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”
- **Emma Rommes:** Romans 8:38-39; “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- **Alicia Schroeder:** Philippians 4:13; “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”.
- **Lexi Schuldt:** Philippians 4:13; “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Leland Schulze (\$300)

- **Grace Meyer:** 1 Corinthians 16:14; “Let all that you do be done in love.”

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord's alive, awake, rejoice and sing! It's just as He had said, He's risen from the dead. Salvation now He brings, salvation, salvation now He brings.

Joy to the world, the empty tomb, proclaims a victory. Of light compelling, a great dispelling. Of darkness in the world, of darkness in the world, of darkness, of darkness in the world.

Joy to the world, our Savior reigns, let Heaven and earth proclaim. The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Let us share the joy and love of the resurrection. So go with God's blessing to laugh, to dance, and to sing God's praises. **Amen**

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Today's Volunteers!

We would love to have your help during our worship service. Please sign up at the kiosk in the church narthex or on the church website under the sign-up link on the home page. Thank you!

Greeters:

Ushers: Dave Renslo & Dean Schutte

Reader: Tricia Babinski

Presentation Clicker:

Live Stream: Stacey Meyer

Acolytes:

Coffee and Refreshments: