



1st Sunday after Christmas

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr

December 31, 2023 9:15am

www.immanuelfamily.com

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God of life,

C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

L: Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: **"Joy to the World"**

#267 ELW

GREETING

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3 *Clothed in garments of salvation*

PSALM: Psalm 148 [read responsively by whole verse]

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7 *Children and heirs of God*

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40 *The presentation of the child*

*Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastoral Intern Elizabeth Carr

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Beautiful Things" Gungar

Video

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *L: Hear us, O God. C: **Your mercy is great.***

Ruby Sue Albertsen

Joyce Kasper

Tim Schmidt

Kristy Anderson

Chris McCormick

Lowell Solberg

Liam Bartleson

Carol Merritt

Jennie Spencer

Hayden Despenas

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

Missionary Karen Anderson

Parker Farland

Wilma Sauer

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.***

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "**We are an Offering**"

#692

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of abundance,

C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

COMMUNION: **"The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing"**
 "Now We Join in Celebration"

#531

#462

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

SENDING HYMN: **"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"**

#536

BLESSING

DISMISSAL: As you leave this place, remember whether you are waiting for a new beginning or just waiting for something to end, God is sustaining you. Keep alert; trust God; seek peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

† † † † † †

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Today's worship is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast is 'JOYFULLY' given by the Johnson family – Mike, Heather, Hayden, Tate, and Jordy.

Altar flowers are from Sam & Jan Hernes in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary today (Dec. 31).

Baptized today: *Aria Sophia Keller*, born June 19, 2022 in Newton, Massachusetts, to David & Delaram Keller. Baptism sponsors for Aria are Jennifer & Mark Jenkins and Laura & Dan Randall.

Worship Participants:

Ushers: Jim Lund, Joe Stukel, Tina Berg

Altar Care: Mary Lund

Song Leaders: Steve Olmstead, Scott Bertelsen, Jaci Thorson

Greeter: Shirley Rollefson

Assisting Minister: Ken Korth

Scripture Reader: Carolyn Korth

Sound/Video Techs: Bruce Mielke, Dave Midtgaard

Piano: Linda Ferjak

Communion Set Up: Cindy Korth

Communion Servers: Mary Kingland, Joan Beebe