



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr

March 10, 2024 9:15am

www.immanuelfamily.com

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

OPEN HANDS

poem by Rev. Sarah Speed

*We are born with the ability to wrap our fingers around another,
To hold tight to what we know.*

*Maybe that's where the instinct comes from—
This clinging, this singing, this holding on.*

*Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!" when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning we've known how to hold tight.*

So I pray:

*Open up my hands. Uncurl my fingers one by one.
Loosen the grip that I hold unyielding.*

*Remind me that birds must fly and children must grow and leaves must fall.
And even though we are born with the ability to hold tight,
We can learn how to love with open hands.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: On our worst days, **C: God is good.**

L: On our best days, **C: God is good.**

L: When life is consistent, **C: God is good.**

L: And when life turns on its head, **C: God is good.**

L: Day and night, Monday through Sunday, **C: God is good. God is here. God is love.**

L: Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

L: Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me. And still, Jesus chose him. Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change.

Join me in prayer:

C: Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!" We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.

L: Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "Lord I Need You"

Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.

And without You, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.

Chorus

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.
Where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.

Bridge

*So, teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.*

CCLI #5925687, words and music by Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher, Christy Nockels and Daniel Carson; 2011 sixsteps Music|worshiptogether.com.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Listening God, if we could attach ourselves to you, we would. We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts. We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being. We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander. Instead of attaching ourselves to you, we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day. Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all. So speak clearly to us now. Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news. We are listening. We are hungry. We are hopeful.

Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

pg. 227 ELW

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 [read responsively]

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love**

and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-23

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

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Rod

HYMN OF THE DAY: "**Jesus Paid it All**" Don Moel

I hear the savior say Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray find in me thine all in all
Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone

Jesus paid it all, All to him I owe

Sin had left a crimson stain

He washed it white as snow

For nothing good have I whereby Thy grace to claim
I'll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv'ry's lamb
And when before the throne I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save my lips shall still repeat

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God of second chances, a God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness. I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world. Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too. I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible. I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds. This change is holy and important work, although challenging. When fear and scarcity plague me, or when the impossible feels out of reach, I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

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

Ruby Sue Albertsen

Chris McCormick

Casey Sink (Audrey's daughter)

Liam Bartleson

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

Jennie Spencer

Hayden Despenas

Melvin Peterson

Lucky Truong

Parker Farland

Carroll Reines

Missionary Karen Anderson

Donna Kvale

Tim Schmidt

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: “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son. [repeat]

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say,
“I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us; [repeat]

Give thanks.

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OFFERING PRAYER

ALL: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING / PRAYER

SENDING HYMN: “Lift High the Cross”

#660

BLESSING / DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Share your bread.
 Thanks be to God.

† † † † † †

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Today’s worship is broadcast at 11:00am over KIOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast given in memory of Wally (Mar. 7 b’day) & Marge Felland from daughters, Sherry & Vicki.

Baptized today: Daxton Andrew Ziesmer, born October 20, 2023, to Derek & Mallory (Lovik) Ziesmer. Baptism sponsors for Daxton are Nicole & Jason Blaser and Alison & Preston Bridges.

Worship Participants:

Ushers: Chad & Marcy Hanson family
Song Leaders: Scott Bertelsen, Jaci Thorson
Piano: Dave Tett
Scripture Reader: John Tibodeau
Communion Servers: Mary Kingland, Tasha Banta
Band: Geno Lopes-guitar, Antonio Lopes-drums

Altar Care: Jeanette Neuman
Assisting Minister: Patti Strukel
Greeter: Shirley Rollefson
Sound/Video Techs: Brody Hopp/Tammy Krieger
Communion Set Up: Ruth Melby