



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa  
Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr  
[www.immanuelfamily.com](http://www.immanuelfamily.com)  
March 24, 2024 9:15am in person | online | on the radio

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*Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.*

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*COURAGE* poem by Rev. Sarah Speed

We summon every ounce of courage.  
We give ourselves pep talks and we call our friends.  
We dig deep within.  
We practice the words out loud, rolling them around in our mouths,  
Imagining the response.  
We deal out every “what if” card our brain holds on to  
And spend absurd amounts of time imaging all the ways it could go wrong.  
And then finally, blessedly, we say it:  
*I love you.*  
To speak the truth of your heart takes courage. It always has.  
But please, summon your courage, join the parade, and speak with conviction.  
For God has been saying to the world since day one:  
*I love you.*  
What is your response?

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing songs of loudest praise! **C: Hosanna!**

L: Sing songs that are unashamed. **C: Hosanna!**

L: Sing songs without being afraid. **C: Hosanna!**

L: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today. **C: Hosanna!**

L: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: **“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**

#344 ELW

PROMISELAND KIDS: “Hallu, hallu, hallu, hallelujah!” / CHILDREN’S SERMON

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence. After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, “the disciples did not understand what was happening” (John 12:16). A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God’s presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we’re standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing. That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don’t want to miss our chance to sing:

**C: Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs re ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray. Amen.**

L: Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that. So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones: We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ

loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. **Amen.**

#### 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

God of grace, your Word is like a song. It is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. So as we return to scripture once more, we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song. Allow us to hear the truth in between the words. Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears we pray. **Amen.**

PSALM: Psalm 100 (read responsively)

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

L: Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**C: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

L: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

GOSPEL: John 12:12-26

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

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

#### SERMON

Pastor Zech

#### HYMN OF THE DAY: "Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)"

Verse 1: Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You, we turn to You  
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You, we long for You

Pre-chorus: 'Cause when we see You we find strength to face the day  
In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

*Chorus: Hosanna, Hosanna*

*You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises*

*Hosanna, Hosanna*

*Come have Your way among us, we welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

Verse 2: Hear the sound of hearts returning to You, we turn to You  
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new

CCL #4662491 Brenton Brown | Paul Baloche; 2005, 2006 Thankyou Music; Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise. Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *L: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

<b>Ruby Sue</b> Albertsen	<b>family of Rhonda</b> King	<b>Casey Sink</b> (Audrey's daughter)
<b>Joann L.</b> Bartleson	<b>Donna</b> Kvale	<b>Jennie</b> Spencer
<b>Liam</b> Bartleson	<b>Chris</b> McCormick	<b>Lucky</b> Truong
<b>Hayden</b> Despenas	<b>Jill</b> (Lewison) Nedved	<b>Missionary Karen</b> Anderson
<b>Parker</b> Farland	<b>Tim</b> Schmidt	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes</b>

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: "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing"

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BLESSING / DISMISSAL: Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**