



## Third Sunday in Lent

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr

March 3, 2024 9:15am

[www.immanuelfamily.com](http://www.immanuelfamily.com)

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

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PRAISE THE MOUNT

*poem by Rev. Sarah Speed*

*I have stayed quiet before. I have held my tongue while passing mountains.*

*I have slipped my hands deep into pockets, despite the music that invites me to dance.*

*I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love*

*And have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.*

*But not today. Not today. Today I will dance.*

*Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates.*

*Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass.*

*Today I will talk about my faith like we talk about the weather—*

*Early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.*

*Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees, & your entire being.*

*And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.*

*I will not swallow my praise.*

*I have stayed quiet before, but not today. Today I will sing.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Psalm 19*

If you ask the sky who God is,  
**the sky will tell you of God's reach.**

If you ask the day who God is,  
**the sun will tell you of God's warmth.**

If you ask the night who God is,  
**the moon will tell you of God's comfort.**

"The heavens are telling the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). Are you listening?

**We are listening! We will sing of God's glory.**

Let us worship Holy God.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In our scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "You are the Messiah." Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered? Did he respond loudly and with confidence, or with a tentative whisper?

We'll never know. The text doesn't provide those details. But we can trust that, no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening. So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.

Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.

Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

**Forgive us for losing sight of you.**

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—

**trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.**

Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

**Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.**

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.

**Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith.**

**Amen.**

Friends, whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat— God will *always* listen with love and mercy.

So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. Speak *that* good news with confidence. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: “**Bless Now; O God, the Journey**”

#326

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

Holy Word, for generations people have bowed their heads, have prayed the Psalms, have asked for your presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered, “May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God.” For generations we have gathered here, we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst. So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today. With joy and hope we pray, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19 [read responsively]

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;**

**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your  
sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

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

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Intern Elizabeth

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Here at the Peak"** tune of #803-When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Here at the peak I clearly see, all of the pieces you've laid out  
And in this brief thought timeless peace, such clarity occludes my doubts.

Here I proclaim the truths I know. beyond the knowledge of this world.  
Truths planted deep within my bones. brought to the light as gold unearthed.

Here my Creator stands enfleshed, infinite glory here contained.  
Humble and rugged, simply dressed, Savior of all on earth to reign.

Here at the peak you clearly name, who you created me to be  
Identified not by my shame, but by the gifts you gave to me.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus asked the disciples, "But what about you? Who do you say that I am?"  
Church, what do you say?

**Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm, the voice of truth spoken over us,  
and love without walls. Jesus is justice for the weary, healing for the hurt,  
and welcome for the stranger. Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend—  
with me on the mountain and beside me in the valley.**

**Jesus is a star in the night, and the love that knows my name.**

Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?"

**Like Peter, we say, "Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God."**

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

**Ruby Sue** Albertsen  
**Liam** Bartleson  
**Hayden** Despenas  
**Parker** Farland  
**family of Joe** Ferjak  
**Donna** Kvale

**Chris** McCormick  
**Jill** (Lewison) Nedved  
**Melvin** Peterson  
**Carroll** Reines  
**Tim** Schmidt

**Casey** Sink (Audrey's daughter)  
**Jennie** Spencer  
**Lucky** Truong  
**Missionary Karen** Anderson  
**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: "He Never Failed Me Yet" Choir

OFFERTORY: "As the Grains of Wheat" #465

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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING / Holy, Holy, Holy from Now the Feast & Celebration, Marty Haugen  
Eucharistic Prayer / Eucharistic Acclamations  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ  
Lord's Prayer

COMMUNION: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" #325

"Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" #327

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Praise to You, O God of Mercy" #208

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #834

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

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**Today's worship** is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast given in memory of husband Claire and brother-in-law Gary from Lavonne Thompson and family.

Who do you say that I am

