



THANKS . . .
BE TO GOD!



14th Sunday after Pentecost
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa
Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Jeniffer Tillman
www.immanuelfamily.com
in person | live stream | on the radio
September 14, 2025 9:15am

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

#807 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14 *Moses begs the Lord to turn from anger against the Hebrews*

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10 [read responsively]

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 *Christ Jesus came for sinners*

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10 *Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners*

Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.** Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Jeniffer Tillman

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Because He Lives"**

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal, and forgive.

He lived and died to buy my pardon; An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow; Because He lives all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby and feel the pride and joy He gives;

But greater still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain.

And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

APOSTLES' CREED

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *L: God of grace, C: receive our prayer.*

Liam Bartleson

Mary Ellis

Steve Schellberg

Taylor Bartleson

Mary Farland

Joan Swanson

Joan Beebe

Diane Lovick

Lucky Truong

Jan Buffington

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes

Hayden Despenas

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: **"Give Thanks"** Henry Smith, 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

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!

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING / PRAYER

SENDING SONG: **"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"**

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed

Chorus

*My chains are gone I've been set free, My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains, Unending love amazing grace*

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below will be forever mine, will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio CCLI Song #4768151

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BLESSING / DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

† † † † † †

Today's worship service is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast is given in memory of Tim Schmidt (Sept. 25 b'day) from mom Virginia, brothers Dan & Jim and families.

Worship Participants:

Sound/Video Techs: Dave Midtgaard/Ken Ferjak

Band: Rylie Walton, Geno Lopes, Antonio Lopes

Song Leaders: Sara Leichsenring, Steve Olmstead, Pastor Zech

Ushers: Chad, Marcy & Keaton Hanson

Communion Servers: Keith & Emily Walker

Altar Care: Jean Yeager

Assisting Minister: Olivia Banta

Scripture Reader: Marla Betz

Greeter: Shirley Rollefson

Communion Set Up: Tasha Banta