



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa

Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Jeniffer Tillman

www.immanuelfamily.com

in person | live stream | on the radio

April 27, 2025 9:15am

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(by Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution blog)

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: “Awesome God”

*Chorus: Our God is an awesome God He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love Our God is an awesome God*

Verse 1

When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just puttin' on the ritz, Our God is an awesome God
There is thunder in His footsteps and lightning in His fists, Our God is an awesome God
And the Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood, His return is very close
And so you'd better be believin' that our God is an awesome God

Verse 2

When the sky was starless in the void of the night, Our God is an awesome God
He spoke into the darkness and created the light, Our God is an awesome God
Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten that our God is an awesome God

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.**

CONGREGATION CALL AND RESPONSE

L: Where is this Jesus, the one you call Messiah?

C: Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!

L: I do not see him. I don't believe you.

C (louder): Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!

L: Let me see his body, his hands and his feet.

C: We are Christ's body; We are Christ's feet.

L: You see the suffering in the world? Where is Jesus now?

C: We are going into the world to be the body of Christ.

L: Let us go together, let us partner with others.

C: For we are the body of Christ: let us share the Good News!

(by Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution blog)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32 *The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus*

PSALM 150 [read responsively]

¹ Hallelujah! Praise God in the holy temple; praise God in the mighty firmament.

² **Praise God for mighty acts; praise God for exceeding greatness.**

³ Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with lyre and harp.

⁴ **Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe.**

⁵ Praise God with resounding cymbals; praise God with loud clanging cymbals.

⁶ **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8 *Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming*

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON / NOISY OFFERING FOR BIBLE CAMPS

SERMON

Pastor Jeniffer Tillman

HYMN OF THE DAY: “My Lighthouse”

Verse 1: In my wrestling and in my doubts, In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Verse 2: In the silence You won't let go, In the questions Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

*Chorus: My Lighthouse my Lighthouse, Shining in the darkness I will follow You oh
My Lighthouse my Lighthouse, I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore, Safe to shore safe to shore safe to shore*

Verse 3: I won't fear what tomorrow brings, With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Bridge: Fire before us you're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms (hey) (REPEAT 3X)

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

Marj Anderson	family of Althea Brager	Mercedes
family of David Barloon	Jan Buffington	Jill (Lewison) Nedved
Liam Bartleson	Ivy Mae Callow	Tim Schmidt
Taylor Bartleson	Hayden Despenas	Jennie Spencer
Joan Beebe	Mary Ellis	Joan Swanson
Bob Berg	Matt Grieff	Lucky Truong
Randall Betz	Doris Johnson	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: “**Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**” #310 (vs. 1,4)

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / THE LORD’S PRAYER / COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING / PRAYER

SENDING HYMN: “**Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!**” #382

BLESSING: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior,
and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**