



Third Sunday in Lent

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa
Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Jeniffer Tillman

www.immanuelfamily.com

in person | live stream | on the radio

March 23, 2025 9:15am

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: God of all grace, be near in the brokenness, turning us from the things that keep us from wholeness with you, ourselves, and one another. Propel us toward healing as we confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and are strengthened to serve in your name.

All: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
God of mercy,

All: you delight in goodness and judge sin. Give us open and honest hearts to recognize the ways we have turned from you, from our own belovedness, and from one another. We focus on the world's scarcity, instead of your abundance. We view others through the lens of us versus them, instead of one body in you. We participate in the brokenness, caught in webs of greed and selfishness. Quiet the strife, O God, and draw us into your forgiveness and wellbeing. Through your divine love, renew in and around us the good that you have created, that we will stand together in you, unbroken, as your beloved community. Amen

L: Children of God, in Christ, you are unbroken and unbreakable. In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven, and you are made whole. At Christ's table you are fed, and nourished. In water and promise, you are brought from death to new life. By the Spirit, you are gathered, gifted, and sent to serve a fractured world and empowered to live as Christ for others. **Amen**

GATHERING SONG: "As the Deer"

As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee

*You alone are my strength my shield, to You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee*

You're my friend and You are my brother even though You are a King
I love You more than any other so much more than anything

I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye

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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

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9 *Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the Lord*

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8 [read responsively]

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 *Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians*

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9 *Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree*

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lutheran Lakeside Camp Staff

SERMON

Pastor Zech Anderson

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Beautiful Things"** Michael Gungor

All this pain; I wonder if I'll ever find my way.

I wonder if my life could really change at all.

You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust.

You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.

All this earth; could all that is lost ever be found?

Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

All around, hope is springing up from this old ground.

Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *L: God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.*

Liam Bartleson

Hayden Despenas

Tim Schmidt

Taylor Bartleson

Mary Ellis

Jennie Spencer

Joan Beebe

Doris Johnson

Joan Swanson

Jan Buffington

Mercedes

Lucky Truong

Ivy Mae Callow

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

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 grate 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

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

SENDING SONG: **“Light Dawns on a Weary World”**

#726

BLESSING / DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

† † † † †

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Today’s worship service is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM.

Worship Participants:

Ushers: Roland Drew & Colleen Schmidt

Altar Care: Joan Beebe

Assisting Minister/Reader: Patti Strukel

Greeter: Shirley Rollefson

Sound/Video Tech: Prosper

Communion Servers: Steve & Nancy Westerberg

Communion Set Up: Ruth Melby

Song Leaders: Steve Olmstead, Sarah Leichsenring

Band: Geno & Antonio Lopes