



Fourth 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 30, 2025 9:15am

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

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 HYMN: **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

#631 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.

KYRIE

pg. 138-139

HYMN OF PRAISE: **"This is the Feast"**

pg. 140-141

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12 *Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land*

PSALM: Psalm 32 [read responsively]

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *The mystery and ministry of reconciliation*

LENTEN RESPONSE

pg. 142

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son*

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

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Rod Hopp

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Amazing Grace"**

#779

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. 105

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

family of Ron Kvale

Lucky Truong

Ivy Mae Callow

Mercedes

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

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

OFFERING: "What Wondrous Love is This" Lloyd Larson

Bell Choir

OFFERTORY: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

#186

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

"Now We Join in Celebration"

#462

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"

#464

"In the Singing"

#466

"Around You, O Lord Jesus"

#468

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

SENDING SONG: "We Sing to You, O God" [words #791; tune "My Song is Love Unknown"]

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth,
Let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth. To you, O God, let songs be raised,
In joyful hymns, our feast of praise, in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

We wandered far from home out in a desert land,
You shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band, You kept us safe within your arms
And sheltered us against the storm, and sheltered us against the storm.

You bear us through the world, an eagle to its young;
You rise up on your wings and bear us toward the sun. We ride the vaults of light and air
And trust in your unfailing care, and trust in your unfailing care.

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,
The everlasting arms to whom our praises ring. Your word is true, your way is just
You are the God in whom we trust, You are the God in whom we trust.

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 KIOU 107.3 FM. Broadcast today is given in honor of Betty Olson's upcoming 95th birthday (April 9) by her children.