



*Do not be unbelieving,
but believing.“*

– John 20:27 NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

We all know what it's like to wrestle with doubt—to wonder if God's promises are really meant for us. Today, we walk with Thomas, the disciple who voiced the doubts many of us carry quietly. But more importantly, we meet the Savior who doesn't shame us for our struggles but steps into our locked hearts with His peace. As we hear His Word and see His scars, we are invited again to believe, not because we see, but because Christ has come to us with His grace. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

9 – O Day of Rest and Gladness

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, as we gather in the light of Christ's resurrection, we remember the words He spoke to Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." We confess that like Thomas, we have often doubted our Savior's promises. We have clung to fear instead of faith, hidden behind locked doors of worry and despair, and trusted more in what we see than in the unseen but certain Word of our God. Let us therefore humble ourselves before God, confess our sins, and seek His mercy for the sake of our risen and living Lord.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have doubted Your promises and lived as if Christ were still in the grave. We have given in to fear, neglected Your Word, and failed to bear witness to the risen Christ. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our offenses and raised again for our justification, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may walk in the joy and peace of His resurrection to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Hear the Good News! Jesus Christ, the First and the Last, who lives and was dead and is alive forevermore, says to you, "Peace be with you." He has conquered sin, death, and the devil for you. Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 105:1-5, 8

P Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name;

C **Make known His deeds among the peoples!**

P Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;

C **Talk of all His wondrous works!**

P Glory in His holy name;

C **Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!**

P Seek the LORD and His strength;

C **Seek His face evermore!**

P Remember His marvelous works which He has done,

C **His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,**

P He remembers His covenant forever,

C **The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, along with rests and a fermata. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

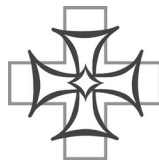
... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 5:12-32

¹² And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. ¹³ Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. ¹⁴ And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷ Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, ¹⁸ and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." ²¹ And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, ²³ saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" ²⁴ Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. ²⁵ So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" ²⁶ Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. ²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸ saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" ²⁹ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."



Psalm of the Day

Psalm 148

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
C **Praise Him in the heights!**
P Praise Him, all His angels;
C **Praise Him, all His hosts!**
P Praise Him, sun and moon;
C **Praise Him, all you stars of light!**
P Praise Him, you heavens of heavens,
C **And you waters above the heavens!**
P Let them praise the name of the LORD,
C **For He commanded and they were created.**
P He also established them forever and ever;
C **He made a decree which shall not pass away.**
P Praise the LORD from the earth,
C **You great sea creatures and all the depths;**
P Fire and hail, snow and clouds;
C **Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;**
P Mountains and all hills;
C **Fruitful trees and all cedars;**
P Beasts and all cattle;
C **Creeping things and flying fowl;**
P Kings of the earth and all peoples;
C **Princes and all judges of the earth;**
P Both young men and maidens;
C **Old men and children.**
P Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted;
C **His glory is above the earth and heaven.**
P And He has exalted the horn of His people, The praise of all His saints
C **Of the children of Israel, A people near to Him. Praise the LORD!**

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-18

⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. ⁸ "I am the Alpha and the

Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,¹¹ saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Text

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!”

²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

*Sermon***Believing Thomas****Offertory**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
 pres-ence, and take not Your Ho-ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
 hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.


Hymn

726 – Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
 2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
 Thee all praise and glo - ry to be. How
 life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. Oh,
 shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv-est all?
 may we ev - er with Thee live, Who giv-est all!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

352 – O Savior, Precious Savior

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule		
April 27	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
April 28-30		Pastor in Eau Claire for CLC Mission Board Meetings
May 4	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
May 9	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
May 11	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **May 4** – Education/Elders
- **June 1** – Trustees/Church Council
- **July 6** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Paulette Galstad, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield. May the Lord strengthen their faith, grant them His peace, and assure them of His abiding presence.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday, we'll hear one of the most dramatic conversion stories in all of Scripture—Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. Struck down, blinded, and confronted by the risen Lord, Saul hears the words that change everything: "I am Jesus." With that declaration, a persecutor becomes a preacher, an enemy becomes an apostle. What does this mean for us? It means no one is beyond the reach of Christ's grace. It means Jesus still comes to shatter our self-made identities and remake us in His mercy. Join us as we reflect on Acts 9:1–22 and marvel at the transforming power of the Savior who still says, "I am Jesus"—and still changes everything.

Learning with Littles: We are thankful to report that 30 children participated in our Learning with Littles session this past Friday! Our final session for the school year will be held on Friday, May 9. Thank you for your prayers and support for this program!

Pastor Away: Pastor Sauers will be in Eau Claire, WI April 28-30 for CLC Mission Board meetings. While he is away, he will still be available by phone if needed. You can reach him at (920) 602-3242. Please keep the work of the CLC in your prayers, asking the Lord to bless all efforts to proclaim His saving Word both at home and around the world.

Fruits of Faith		April 20, 2025		Attendance: WH – 42	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$1,258.00	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
-\$242.00	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over		
\$21,843.05	Year to Date Offerings	\$660.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$24,000.00	Year to Date Need	\$1,076.96	Year to Date Need		
-\$2,156.95	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$416.96	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund		
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund		
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund		
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)		
\$80.00	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship		
	Learning with Littles		ILC Tour Choir		
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest		

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

April 28 – May 03, 2025

Monday – *John 21:1-14*

Jesus shows Himself alive once more to His disciples as they go about a very normal activity for them. He helps them fill their net, and Peter races to shore, but Jesus already has food for them.

Tuesday – *1 Corinthians 15:50-57*

How can a mortal body become immortal? It will happen, in the blink of an eye, and death will be swallowed up in victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Wednesday – *Exodus 15:11-21*

Moses sings of God's redeeming mercy in Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and Miriam's refrain responds. So shall we also sing of our great deliverance in Christ from sin, death, and the devil.

Thursday – *Isaiah 4:2-6*

Isaiah speaks of a new Jerusalem, cleansed of its sin and made glorious by the LORD Himself. Shade from heat and shelter from storm picture for us the absence of fear and tear, all His doing.

Friday – *Ezekiel 34:23-31*

The redemption from Israel's captivity is like the great redemption which David's descendant accomplished for all. He is the Good Shepherd, the prince when God is king (v. 24).

Saturday – *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

When God's Word speaks to bones, they come together, no matter how dry; when His Word calls upon breath to come into bodies, they live again. The LORD speaks, and it is done! (v. 14)

