

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The stone was rolled away, but the miracle of Easter did not stay confined to a quiet garden in Jerusalem. It reverberated outward, crashing into a world hostile to its message. In today's reading from Acts, we see the early apostles facing fierce opposition, beatings, and threats from earthly authorities. Yet, they simply could not be silenced. Why? Because human threats are utterly powerless against the reality of a living Savior. Today, we gather to witness the unstoppable echo of the empty tomb. As we prepare our hearts for worship, consider how the resounding truth of Christ's resurrection continues to ring out, bringing invincible hope and courage to us today.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

188 – Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 51:15; Psalm 118:17

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P O Lord, open my lips,

C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P I shall not die, but live,

C And declare the works of the LORD.

Confession and Absolution

P Christ is risen, and the tomb is empty. This joyous reality changes everything. Yet, we too often live as if the stone is still rolled across the entrance. We hide behind the locked doors of our fears, anxieties, and shame. We choose the comfortable path of pleasing men rather than obeying God, silencing the echo of the Gospel in our own lives. Let us therefore approach our heavenly Father, confessing our sins and seeking His forgiveness for the sake of our Risen Lord.

C Heavenly Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have often kept silent when we should have spoken. We have feared the opinions of men more than we have revered Your holy name. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may boldly declare Your praise and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Christ is risen from the dead, and His victory is yours! As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, You
A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord, At



heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor - ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high: Who, with the



You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al -
God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, Re - ceive our
Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored, With all the



might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

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!**

Gospel Reading

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.

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! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
Son of God. 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.

Hymn

192 (1-3, 5-6) – Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Sermon Text

Acts 5:29-42

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.” ³³ When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them. ³⁴ Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them: “Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. ³⁸ And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.” ⁴⁰ And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Sermon Theme: The Unstoppable Echo of the Empty Tomb

Offertory

Cre-ate 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. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Hymn

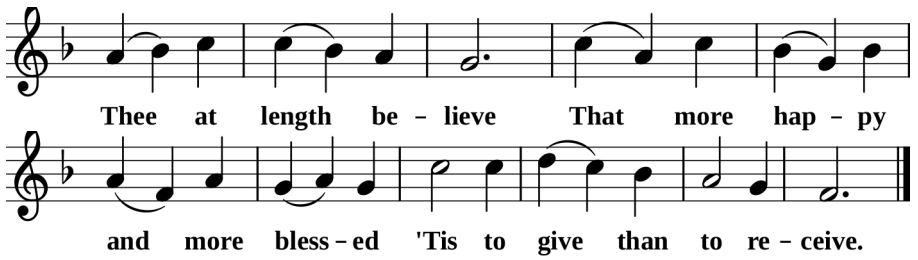
781 – Preach You the Word

Offering

Offering Hymn

442 (2)

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by



Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

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

451 – Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

April 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
April 19	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
April 24	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
April 26	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **May 3** – Education/Elders
- **June 7** – Trustees/Church Council
- **July 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Springtime brings a beautiful burst of color, but we all know how quickly those blooms wilt and fade. The Apostle Peter reminds us that our earthly lives and worldly wealth are much like those delicate blossoms: "All flesh is as grass... The grass withers, And its flower falls away." Next Sunday, we will contrast our fleeting world with the eternal certainty of our salvation. Under the theme, "Fading Flowers and the Forever Promise," we will explore 1 Peter 1:17-25. Come and rejoice that you were not redeemed with "corruptible things, like silver or gold," but with the "precious blood of Christ." Join us as we anchor our Easter hope in the word of the LORD that endures forever!

ILC Dorm Supervisor: Jaqi Bredehoft will be resigning as girls dorm supervisor at the end of this school year. We thank her for her faithful service to the LORD and for being such a positive role model to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for this position to begin the 2026-27 school year. This role is vital to our campus, given how dorm supervisors provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Females who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.) for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins April 15.

CLC News: Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY, is requesting a graduate from the ILC Education Program. <> Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has returned the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has received the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Lane Fischer of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ted Barthels of St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry as of April 30, 2026. <> Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN, has retired due to non life-threatening health concerns. His last service was March 29, 2026.

Fruits of Faith		April 5, 2026		Attendance: WH – 60	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$2,735.00	General Budget	\$100.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
+\$1,373.00	-Under / +Over	+\$32.69	-Under / +Over		
\$18,937.72	Year to Date Offerings	\$675.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$19,068.00	Year to Date Need	\$942.34	Year to Date Need		
-\$130.28	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$267.34	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
\$40.00	Benevolence	\$25.00	ILC Student Aid		
\$300.00	Learning with Littles	\$25.00	ILC Scholarship		

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

April 13 – April 18, 2026

Monday - *John 20:19-31*

Jesus showed Himself alive to His own, but also sent them to tell others who had not seen, and blessed them with faith also (verse 29). John's gospel bears witness to those who have not seen (verse 31).

Tuesday - *1 John 5:4-10*

Faith in Jesus, the Son of God, overcomes the world. He is God and man from His birth to His Baptism to His shed blood on the cross and brings us victory through faith in God's testimony.

Wednesday - *Job 19:25-27*

Although he has not yet seen it, Job believes and therefore knows that his Redeemer lives and will stand at the last day upon the earth. We join Job to rejoice: "My own eyes will see Him" (verse 27).

Thursday - *Psalms 57*

With David we look to God's mercy in every trouble. He is our help even in the midst of ferocious lions. We can sing thanks to God at all times, for His mercy reaches above the heavens (verse 10).

Friday - *Psalms 118:1-18*

The LORD is good and His mercy is enduring! Even surrounded by troubles, we are answered and delivered by the LORD. I will not die, but live, and proclaim the works of the LORD (verse 17).

Saturday - *Psalms 118:19-29*

Messiah's victory opens for us the gate to the LORD. This is the LORD's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. We give thanks because He has answered us and become salvation for us (verse 21).

