

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Third Sunday After of Easter
April 19, 2026



As We Gather

Easter Light – Gladsome Light

Whether we will admit it or not, many of us are logophiles, which means that we love words. All of us have far more words in our vocabularies than we use in our daily conversation. We know what the words mean but for some reason we do not say them much. Words come into and go out of fashion and usage. One of those words that are not used much anymore is gladsome. It appears in several hymns of the Christmas season and is in the first line of the ancient evening hymn “O Gladsome Light, O Grace” (LSB 888), which dates back to the fourth century AD and was originally in the Greek language. It describes Jesus as being the ultimate gladsome light with these words: “O gladsome Light, O Grace of God the Father’s face, eternal splendor wearing: celestial, holy, blest, our Savior Jesus Christ, joyful in Thine appearing!” (LSB 888:1). Jesus, the risen Lord, is the light that brings gladness to each hour of the day. We are blessed in that we can always rejoice in His brightness!

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

HYMN "This Joyful Eastertide" #482

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 113:1-4; 56:12-13

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

People: **Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

People: **The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!**

Pastor: I must perform my vows to You, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.

People: **For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not lived as Your followers but have sought to go our own ways in directions that have not brought glory to You or blessing to others.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, admitting with guilt that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord**

Pastor: We confess that Your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family, neighbors, and friends, and beyond.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

People: **Amen.**

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT

♪ **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

KYRIE

♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

♪ **Glory be to God on high; and on earth peace good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.**

O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only are holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ **A--men.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Acts 2:14a, 36-41

(Peter preaches to the people gathered in Jerusalem.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE 1 Peter 1: 17-25

(Peter writes that we are redeemed by the blood of Christ.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

ALLELUIA

♪ **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35

(Two witnesses learn from the Risen Lord at Emmaus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24th chapter.

People: ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: ♪ **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED *(found on the last page of the pew hymnal)*

Please be seated.

HYMN "Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow"

#476

SERMON Pr. Mark Croucher

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. A-men.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation joyfully be told throughout all the world and the Easter victory of Jesus Christ be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, that the governments of all nations be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms be hindered. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves in this season of our Lord's great victory that we truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially for those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police, fire, and other emergency personnel. We also remember the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and those homebound, especially Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they have a sense of victory in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. On this day we remember those no longer among us on earth who have completed their earthly races and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we rejoice together eternally at Your Table and in Your mansions. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer. Amen.**

✠ **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** ✠

pew hymnal age 194

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: ♪ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

People: ♪ **It is meet and right so to do.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for in Christ You have given us the victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings with true thanksgiving. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in the gladsome light of Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

SANCTUS

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has manifested Your grace and glory. We thank You for the blessed Meal now set before us. Give us lips to speak of Your glory and to tell of the power of our Lord's resurrection. Joined in the name of our Lord and bound together in the communion of saints, we

pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and strengthen us in fervent love toward You and at peace with one another. This we ask for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

People: ♪ **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: ♪ **A---men.**

AGNUS DEI

♪ **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A---men.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS

♪ **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

People: ♪ **And His mercy endureth forever.**

Pastor: Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for once again we have been served at Your Table through our receiving of the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord in this joyful Eastertide. Strengthen us through this Sacrament so that we continue to be Your rejoicing people who tell of Your love to all as we await Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ **A--men.**

SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: ♪ **Amen, amen, a--men.**

HYMN "He's Risen, He's Risen" #480

POSTLUDE

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THE MESSENGER

April 19, 2026

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer and leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Rev. Mark Croucher
Dan Henggeler, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler, and Luetta Buchholz

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 23 Total: 7 guests

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, April 26th is "**Second Chances and First Impressions**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler God is the God of second chances, not for Himself but for others. 1 Corinthians 15:47-49 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.