

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26, 2026



AS WE GATHER

The Door of Jesus' Cross

The place where we worship is often called the Lord's house. It is a sacred space, a holy house, and more. It is our blessed home. English clergyman Isaac Watts, who authored hundreds of hymn texts during his life, concluded his paraphrase of the Twenty-Third Psalm in this memorable way: "The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; oh, may His house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home" (*OAR* 272). We are so much more than strangers or guests here today. We are children at home. Paul writes to the Ephesians and to us, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

PRELUDE

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #711

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 16:1-2, 5-6, 9, 11*

Pastor: Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

People: **I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You."**

Pastor: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.

People: **The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

Pastor: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

People: **You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:1-2,7*

Pastor: Lord, You were favorable to Your land;

People: **You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

People: **You covered all their sin.**

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,

People: **and grant us Your salvation.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your peaceable people. We have not extended ourselves to bring Your peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We have not done the good You demand and have not been the people You would have us be. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that needs Your forgiving grace and with the power of the Holy Spirit direct us to serve You faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. He will revive them and speak peace to His people. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of peace and joy, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

ANTIPHON

Pastor: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

People: ♪ For He is our maker.

VENITE *hymnal page 220-221*

♪ O come, let us sing unto the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

**For the LORD is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
the strength of the hills is His also.**

**The sea is His, and He made it,
and His hands form-ed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our maker.
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture
and the sheep of His hand.**

**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.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God, Your Son is the Shepherd of Your people. Grant
that, when we hear His call, we will know His voice and
follow where He leads; who, with You and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47
(The life of the first Christians includes learning and fellowship.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 2:19-25
(Christ, who suffered for us, sets an example for us.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 10:24*

People: **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:1-10 *(Jesus says He is the gate of the sheep.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLE'S CREED *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" #709

SERMON "I Am ...The Good Shepherd" Pr. Francis Lieb

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #781 v1-2

**We give Thee but Thine own,
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee,**

**May we Thy bounties thus,
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

We pray for the whole church, that through it, the goodness of God be shared and the Good News of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world. Gracious Shepherd,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those who are in need, assured of the Shepherd's care for all His sheep. Give us hearts to seek to meet the needs of those who travel with us through life as we are led by our Good Shepherd day by day. Merciful Shepherd,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, asking that still waters of peace flow around the globe and that there be goodness and kindness among all peoples. Loving Shepherd,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for our families and everyone in them. Grant that together we follow the Good Shepherd as one flock in which all dwell in love and unity. Gentle Shepherd,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those whose tables are set in difficult or challenging places, whose lives know want or discord or sadness or continuing illness especially Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta. Gently guide them with Your rod and staff, Good Shepherd, and keep them ever with You. Caring Shepherd,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With gratefulness we remember those who already dwell in the eternal house of the Lord forever. Inspired us to pass throughout our earthly journeys with faith and with hope as we heed the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow in His ways. Eternal Shepherd,

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless 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.**

HYMN "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" #740

POSTLUDE

THE MESSENGER

April 26, 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. Please 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. Francis Lieb
Linda Rayburn, Organist

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

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: 26 total: 9 guests

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, May 3rd is "**Planning Is Everything**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise. Psalm 146:3-4 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.