

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

1865 14TH AVE

GREELEY CO 80631

Email: office@immanlutheran.org

Website: immanlutheran.org

Phone: 970.352.3003

Rev. Dr. Daren Erisman

Phone: 760.814.5171

**“WELCOME TO IMMANUEL”
INSIDE, OUTSIDE, AND ONLINE WORSHIP**

*Note that our guidelines will evolve over time as restrictions increase or decrease.
Thank you for your faithful flexibility as we worship our beloved Lord and Savior!*

INSIDE

- Please practice social-distancing. Save important conversations and visiting for outside where it is safer.
- Masks are required inside and advisable outside.
Pick up your bulletin on the table inside and put your offering (or pledge) in the offering plate.
- Let the usher know if you have a preference where you would like to sit. They will try to seat you based on your group size and your preference.
- Talk as little as possible and only in a soft voice.
- Only the worship leaders sing and speak out. Hum the songs if you feel so led.
- Communion cups/wafers are already set up in the pews. Put the used cups back in the wooden holder when you are finished.
- The usher will dismiss you.
- Inside worship is inevitably different than before the pandemic. For the best experience, you may want to view it as a more reflective time enjoyed in a beautiful, sacred space where you can listen, share in communion, and attend to God.

OUTSIDE

- Safer than inside worship, outside worship doesn't require masks in your vehicle—although masks are advisable when interacting with others like the usher who brings you:
 - ◇ Your bulletin.
 - ◇ Your combined communion cup & wafer.
 - ◇ An offering box to put your offering (or pledge card).

- Please turn your car radio to this radio station:

FM 90.9

- Feel free to sing and join in as loudly as you want during worship. Take home the used communion cups and dispose of them.
- Outside worship reminds us of the fun and comradery of the summer parking-lot worship. It is a way of worshipping more closely with others while staying safe in our vehicle. Like the inside worship, communion is offered.

ONLINE

- The safest and most convenient worship experience, online worship involves just a few steps:
 - ◇ If you wish to celebrate communion, prepare ahead of time bread or cracker, as well as juice or wine.
 - ◇ Go to www.immanlutheran.org on your computer, smartphone, tablet, etc.
 - ◇ View or print out the bulletin before watching the service. You may also request to have a paper bulletin mailed to you each week.
 - ◇ Click on the video link and worship!
- Online worship is the safest and most convenient worship experience. It is recommended for the most vulnerable. Although missing the social element of worshipping together inside or outside, the online worship can in some ways feel the most “normal.”

Welcome to Worship!
We are a “Church Together”

God calls us to be a church together as we find ourselves physically separated, but spiritually united as one community of God. Whether you are a visitor or longtime member, you are welcome to join us in worshipping Jesus Christ.

Offerings may be mailed to the office:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1865 14th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631

Contact the Office and Pastor:

Office phones (970-352-3003) will be monitored during office hours and messages responded to in a reasonable manner. For the safety of everyone during this pandemic, we have been advised to not have in-person meetings or visits. If you have a pastoral concern, either call the office and leave a message to set up a time to converse with Pastor Daren, or if urgent, text or call Pastor Daren at 760-814-5171.

Sunday, May 2, 2021
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PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was

passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel
before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words, of eternal life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Hymn of the Day: Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word (ELW 663)

Verses 1, 2 & 4

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav-en's gifts ex - tend to all.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains four verses of the hymn. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

Communion

After all have communed:

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion:

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Purpose and Mission Statements:

Immanuel is called to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Christ; to provide places and opportunities for worship and fellowship; and to be the spirit of Christ in the world.

Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry gathers in Christ's name to share God's love, to ask questions, to grow in faith, to respect and nurture our differences, and to serve others.

Blessing

Sending Hymn: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daren Erisman
Organist: Stan Elmquist

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Pastor Daren Erisman

Office: 352-3003, Cell: 760-814-5171, email: reverisman@gmail.com

In this time of COVID19, please feel free to make appointments with Pastor Daren by calling or emailing him at the above phone numbers or email address.

Week of May 2, 2021

Sunday, May 2	10:30 am	Holy Communion—Fifth Sunday of Easter
Tuesday, May 4	9:00 am	Sewing & Lunch
Sunday, May 9	10:30 am	Mother’s Day Holy Communion—Sixth Sunday of Easter

VOLUNTEERS

	<u>Sunday, May 2</u>	<u>Sunday, May 9</u>
Greeter:	Julie Elmquist	Janet Willis
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis	Julie Elmquist
Communion Setup:	Cindy Thompson	Cindy Thompson
Tellers:	Linda Sample	Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall
Ushers: Indoor-	Ron & Cindy Thompson	Katy Sickles, Vera Sylvester
Outdoor -	John Johnson & Sally Stewart	Tim Adams & Shirley Marine



Dick Hay	Roma Arithson
Susan Truchses	Rodger Arithson

Family and Friends dealing with COVID



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays this week:
May 4 – Cheryl Clausen
5 – Kristi Deines
Katy Sickles

Anniversaries this week:
May 4 – Michael & Janet Crespin

IMMANUEL ORGAN FUND



Immanuel has established a fund to replace the organ. Our current instrument is old and we are at the point that repairs are more costly and more frequent. In reality, the organ may no longer work within the next few years. Since this will be a sizeable investment, we need to consider our move toward the future. What will worship at Immanuel look like in the next 5 to 10 years? What type of instrument will be needed to accommodate that vision? How can this investment reach out to the community? Council has begun to look into these questions and has started searching for options that are available. We will be looking for the congregation's help and opinions as we answer these questions. In the meantime, we know this will be a costly investment and have established the organ fund to begin addressing the financial needs for this project. Please prayerfully consider how you might be a part of this project.



Spring Benevolence Campaign



Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church— we will be working with two local organizations to support their efforts during the Mother's Day through Father's Day benevolence campaigns. These organizations walk individuals and families through services that heal, strengthen, and provide hope! Both organizations have a local presence in Greeley and in Northern Colorado so we will be helping members of our larger community beyond our church walls.

Funds will be split evenly between Lutheran Family Services of Rocky Mountains and the Resource Center. Collectively, these organizations provide critical resources for issues ranging from adoption, foster care, and family support and education.

Simply designate your special offering during this period by noting either "L.F.S." or "Resource Center" in the memo line on checks or special offering envelopes.

Thanks for your generosity and prayerful consideration.

If you have information that needs to be added to the weekly update, please contact Denise in the church office at 352-3003 or email to: office@immanlutheran.org

As Immanuel continues to live stream and record services, we are in need of additional people to help with this process. Following is a job description for this media position. If you are interested in this position or have questions, please contact Pastor Daren, 352-3003, or any council member.

MEDIA POSITION IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

- **We are looking for...**
- Someone to help in the video recording of services and the updating of the church website to enable access to those services.
- **Training:**
- The Media person will be trained by Pastor Daren with website work gradually transitioned to them.
- **Responsibilities:**
- Record worship services through the video camera and live-streaming through the computer.
 - ◇ Set up the video camera and be prepared to live-stream at least 15 minutes before the service.
- Regularly update the worship service links on the website.
 - ◇ Create the video and bulletin links for each service a few days before the service is live-streamed and recorded.
 - ◇ Upload the recorded version of the video to YouTube and change the corresponding link on the website sometime after the service (preferably by that evening).
- Help with sound as needed.
- **Commitment and Compensation:**
- Training and supervision will be provided by Pastor Daren.
- Time required - approximately four (4) hours per service, which includes the worship service and website work during the week.
- Compensation will be \$60 per service.