

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

March 26, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

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Immanueleaston.com

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Pastor Taylor Stempniak: ptmarie96@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 26, 2023

Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)

Welcome! Wherever you are; whether at home and on-line, or joining us in our beautiful sanctuary, we welcome you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are united as a people of God in worship as a Body of Christ, the Church. May God grant you safety and protection during these unprecedented times. Immanuel follows the current Centers for Disease Control Guidelines during the pandemic. Wearing masks indoors is optional. Please share our worship opportunities with your family and friends and those who don't know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Immanuel is aligned with the North American Lutheran Church whose Core Values are: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday and other special occasions of the church year. If you have received instruction concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor following the service or check the box on the worship registration form to schedule an appointment. Only non-alcoholic wine is used in communion at Immanuel.

Moms and Dads, we love children and we welcome children to worship with you and the whole congregation. If you so desire, we do have a nursery – the room with the large window next to the Library at the back of the sanctuary. In there is a rocking chair, toys, as well as a speaker and large window so you can see and hear the service. Your kids may enjoy the activity bags on the rack at the back of the church.

To learn more about Immanuel please be sure to fill out the worship registration slip on the back page of your bulletin and place it in the offering bag as you exit the sanctuary or fill out the guest registry located in the church entry.

Restroom facilities are located in the church entry (the narthex). When walking out of the sanctuary take a left and they are at the end of the short hallway.

Join us outdoors immediately following our worship service where we can greet you more personally.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Joanna Maragh

Ring the Bells

Calling the community of Easton to worship

Welcome

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Please Stand as you are able

Pastor: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

All: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

All: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 385

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
For my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down,
Sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
For my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain
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Prayer of The Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

1The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." 7So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I

looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.11Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12Therefore prophesy, and say to them, thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsive Reading

Psalm 130

(Congregation, please read the bold print verses responsively)

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

²**LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, LORD, who could stand?

⁴**But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶**my soul waits for the LORD more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

The Second Reading

Roman 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

John 11:18-45

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St John the eleventh chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and

the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to

them, "Unbind him, and let him go."⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

The Children's Message

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Children are invited up to the altar for the message.

Homily

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"

Lutheran Book of Worship page 482

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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Confession of Faith

Pastor: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right Hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in One holy, Christian, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Please be seated

Pastor: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another.

Time for Offering

Offerings and Worship Slips may be placed in the plates as the ushers pass them through the pews. The slips are for you to use to communicate to the staff at Immanuel and for our congregation to keep track of our attendance numbers. Thank you for your help.

Offertory Response

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him thanks praise.

Communion Preface

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciple, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Distribution

Communion will be served this week by intinction. Please follow the direction of the ushers, as you come to the altar the host will be dipped in the non-alcoholic wine and served to you by Pastor or a Deacon. Immanuel welcomes you to communion this morning.

Post Communion Blessing

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

ALL: Amen

Post Communion Response

The Song of Simeon

Please read responsively.

Pastor: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;

All: Your word has been fulfilled.

Pastor: My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

All: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Pastor: Glory 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.

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able.

Benediction

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

All: Amen!

Closing Hymn

“My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 293

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away,
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

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Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God! *Sing: Amen, Amen, Amen*

Postlude

Joanna Maragh

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Announcements & Opportunities to Serve

Today we welcome Joanna Maragh, and thank her for filling in as our pianist this morning while Laurel enjoys a Sunday off with her family.

Prayer Focus this week on: what God wants of us. Micah 6:8 NIV. He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Choir Practice is today following worship. Please join us today after church if you would like to sing in the special Easter Choir Performance. If you enjoy singing this group is for you! It's just two more weeks of practice after church. Choir practice folks can join the polish potluck following practice.

Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers are this Wednesday in the Social Hall at 6:30PM. If you would like to bring a pot of soup to share, sign up on the gold bulletin board. If you are on the church council, please sign up if you can bring a dessert to share. This year's Lenten offering is going to the **NALC Disaster Relief Fund**, checks should be made payable to Immanuel and memo NALC Disaster Relief.

Today is our All Church Polish Day. Pull Pork Sandwiches will be provided. Please join us for lunch followed by a fun day of polishing silver!

Margaret Fletcher is hosting an Easter Card Making Day on Saturday, April 1st at 9:00am. Lunch is provided, just come to her home and enjoy a morning of creativity. Her address is 6036 S. Cherry Ave. Please let her know you are coming at 559-346-9497.

Check Out the Church Library! It's full of wonderful Easter books!

Immanuel is serving FCA lunches on Wednesdays! We would love for you to join our crew supporting this important ministry for Washington Union student athletes. We typically gather at 10:30am and begin preparations we finish between 1:30/2:00 after clean-up. We also like to serve the students homemade chocolate chip cookies, preferably without nuts in case of allergies. Cookies can be marked FCA and placed in the church freezers or delivered by Wednesday mornings. If you are able to supply cookies, please let me know how many you can provide so I'm sure we have enough. We plan for 200-220 per week. Thank you so much! Ericka Gardner (559)859-3327 or email: Blessedmommy74@yahoo.com

Sign up for Family Camp! June 11th - 18th! Immanuel has a group campground reserved for a week. Bring your shelter and food and camp under the beautiful stars at Logger Flat group campground. Tents and trailers gather together for fun, food and friendship. Enjoy evening meals together and lots of hikes and fishing in the creek. Come when you can and leave when you must. Check in is at 2:00pm and Check out is at 12:00pm

Save the dates! Memorial day weekend! Help decorate Washington Colony Cemetery with beautiful American Flags. On **Saturday, May 27th from 7:30am-9:30am** we will set out the flags and adorned crosses on all the Veterans graves. **The Service Returns!** After the COVID shut down a new committee from the community has formed to provide a Memorial Day Service to remember and honor those who served. **On Memorial Day, May 29th at 10:00AM the service will feature music from each branch of the military, a guest speaker from Lemoore Naval Air Station, Michael G. Stokes and more.** Flag folding and packing begins at 3:00pm that day. If you are willing and able to help, many hands make for light work. Bring a friend. It's a great way to get some exercise and meet new friends too.

We have opportunities to serve for Scripture Readers, Fellowship Servers and Altar Flower providers. If you are willing and able to help please see the Gold Bulletin board and sign your name on the date where you can help.

The Community Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6:30AM at the park across the street on April 9th.

Holy Week Highlights!

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday; we will receive communion at the altar rail on the first Sunday of the month. Thank you to the Caglia family and Barbara Petersen for signing up to wash communion ware.

Immanuel will gather with Easton Presbyterian Church for Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM on April 6th at the Easton Presbyterian Church.

Easton Presbyterian Church will gather with Immanuel for Good Friday Service on April 7th at 7:00PM at Immanuel.

Easter Sunday Fellowship Servers: traditionally on Easter Sunday our congregation is asked to bring a plate of cookies to share during fellowship time. We do need volunteers to help serve the cookies following worship and set up and clean up before and after the service. If you would like to volunteer to help with serving fellowship time after church Easter Sunday, please sign up on the gold bulletin board in the church entryway.

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by the Salwasser family for glory and honor to God and in celebration of Audra's upcoming birthday.

Prayers of the church:

For Christ's Church: Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age.

Members and their families serving in the military: Erica Botello, Canaan Campbell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Leah Linger, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

Those unable to travel about: Gail Hansen, Paul Pedersen, Christie Pettitt & Bonnie Terkelsen.

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Lisa Anderson, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Donnie Cathey, Gaye Cissel, Valarie Cooper, Jody Daly, Emmerson Gardner, Ed Gomez, Donna Kennedy, Marleen Miyasaki, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Gloria Payne, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Debbie Pilegard, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Pastor Dawn Rister (Pastor Taylor's mother), Kenneth Selzer, Richard Smith, & Keitt Wilson.

For people dealing with loneliness and depression. For those battling the illness and the health care providers tending to those in need.

Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	Phone _____
City / State / Zip _____	Email _____
Names / ages of Children living at home _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Time Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Time or Regular Attender
<input type="checkbox"/> Member I came as a guest of _____	
Home Congregation _____	

This Week at Immanuel

Today:

9:30AM Sunday School for EVERYONE!
10:30AM Worship, Communion
11:30AM Fellowship Time

Choir Practice after church!

Monday:

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

Tuesday:

10:00AM Women's Book Study in Library

Wednesday

12:25PM Immanuel serves FCA Lunch
6:30PM Soup Supper in Social Hall
7:00PM Lenten Worship in Sanctuary

Thursday

6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall

Next Sunday: Palm Sunday

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages.
10:30AM Worship & Communion
11:30 AM Fellowship Time

Choir Practice after church!

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Fred, Gina, John

Scripture Reader: Terry Gardner

Fellowship Server: All Church lunch.

Council Lock Up in March: Mark Salwasser

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Fred, Gina, John

Scripture Reader: _____

Fellowship Servers: Salwasser Family

Council Lock Up in April: _____

Sign up for worship assistant opportunities on the blue bulletin board in church entryway.

Please check the appropriate box and write your message in the space below.

I want to learn more about faith.

I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes")

I am receiving communion today

I want to speak with the parish nurse

I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor

I have a prayer request: _____

I want to learn more about baptism

I want to become a member of Immanuel

I want a visit from the visitation pastor

I want to speak with the pastor

I have hymn suggestions: _____