

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
AVILLA, INDIANA
GOD WITH US**

Volume LXXXIII

260-897-2071

Number 16

April 21

9:30 AM

2024

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE – PAGE 151

HYMN No. 710 – The Lord My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.**
- 2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.**
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.**

4 **My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.**

5 **Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.**

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become

the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it
to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

INTROIT – Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

P: I am the good shepherd.

**C: I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my
life for the sheep.**

P: The Lord is my shepherd;

C: I shall not want.

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C: He leads me beside still waters.

P: He restores my soul.

C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

C: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life,

C: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: and to the Holy Spirit;

P: as it was in the beginning,

C: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: I am the good shepherd.

**C: I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my
life for the sheep.**

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE - This Is the Feast

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb ——— who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

FIRST READING – Acts 4:1-12

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means

this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE – 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

HOLY GOSPEL – John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

Glo-ry to You, O Lord.

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 709 – The King of Love My Shepherd is

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.**
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.**
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.**
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.**
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!**
- 6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!**

SERMON

Text: Acts 4:1-12

Theme: Being Christian Isn't "Safe"

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

(there is a time for silent prayer)

After each petition

P: Lord, in Your mercy

C: hear our prayer

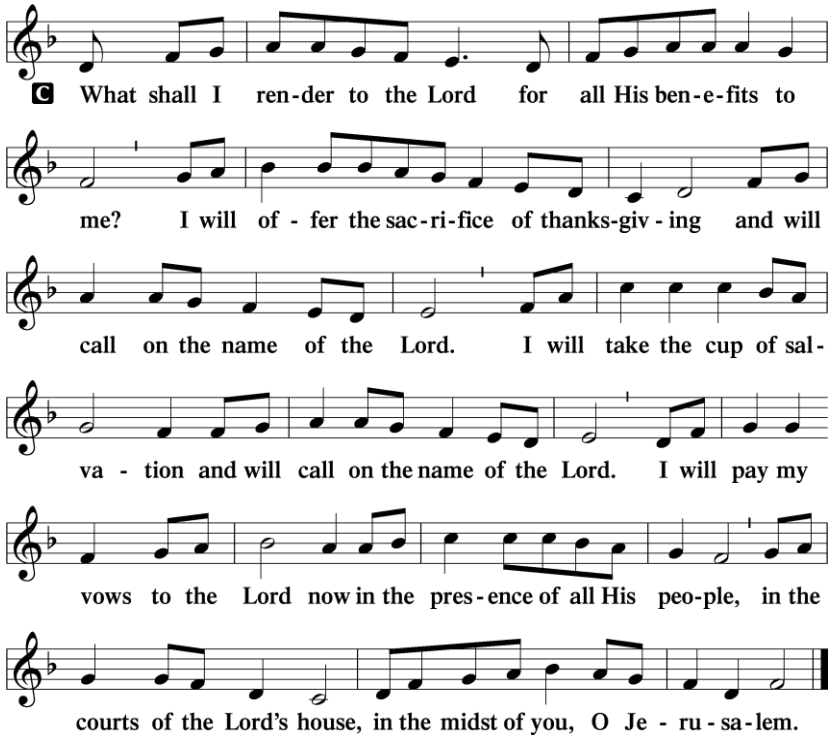
At the conclusion of the prayer:

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.**

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION

P: 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.



HYMN No. 740 – I am Jesus' Little Lamb

- 1 I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.**
- 2 Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,**

**Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.**

**3 Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.**

Text: Public domain

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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WELCOME - We welcome all worshippers to our services at Immanuel this week. As God comes to us in Word and in Sacrament may we experience His love and His power in the singing of praise and the living of our lives to His glory.

VISITORS - Welcome all visitors this week. Be sure to pick up a visitor packet from an usher or from our Information Rack in the east entrance.

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP PADS -ALL members and visitors are asked to record their attendance at church and communion. Please return the record to the center aisle.

SERVICE ENLARGEMENTS, LARGE PRINT HYMNS & ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES - are now available for the service each week. It will include the service, hymns, and the insert of readings. They will be available at both entrances next to the bulletins. Please return them after the service.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TOTES - are available at both entrances for children age kindergarten and younger. Please return them after the service.

NURSERY - Exit the southeast door, the nursery is the third door at the bottom of the stairs. The first door is the lounge where you may listen to the service on the speaker.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the west Sunday school room. They are looking deeper into the Lessons of the Day for that Sunday Service.

CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH OFFICE - If you need to meet, speak, or make an appointment with the Church Secretary the office is open on Tuesdays. If you need to meet or speak to Pastor Kuhlman you can always reach him on his cell and at his home. **Please note that the church will be locked at all times unless two people are present.**

AVILLA FOOD PANTRY - Please do not forget the needy people in our community. You may place your food donations in the box in the east entrance.

FLOWERS – The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Katie Kuhlman.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

- Bible Study – Wednesday - 10 AM

PRAYER LIST- Prayer for the sick & recovering: Joyce Bell, Tim Bishop, Bonnie Buuck, Steve Ferguson, Angie Hardiek, Melanie Fortman, Michael McWilliams, young relative of a church member who is suffering mentally and parents who need wisdom and comfort.

DONUTS / MUFFINS / COOKIES – If you would like to provide donuts, muffins, cookies, etc. for Sunday morning there is a sign-up sheet on the table at the east entrance.

NEWSLETTERS – May newsletters are in your mailboxes.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - “Celebrate the Savior!” is set for June 17-21. Parents make their summer plans early, so it’s not too soon to share flyers, which you will find on the table in the foyer. Don’t be shy to share- it’s a wonderful opportunity for kids, and you may be surprised to find a family has just never been invited!

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS - Every year we need a few new volunteers to rotate into the mix. VBS is a lot of fun, and a great opportunity for mission. For many kids coming to Immanuel this is the only place they learn about Jesus’ love and saving grace. Please pray about getting involved. There are many different ways to volunteer, before, during and after the VBS week. To learn what opportunities might work for you, please talk with Vi Wysong, or April Housholder.

VBS DECORATIONS - This year we are celebrating major holidays that we can relate to Christian truths. We would like to borrow five or six Christmas trees (with lights, flocked, whatever); and decorations you can spare for Valentine’s Day, New Year’s Day, Easter, and Thanksgiving. We do not want anything precious but appreciate anything we can put as decorations in the snack area for each special day. Thank you!

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN – Registration for Summer 2024 at Camp Lutherhaven is Open! Check out the summer camp programs for kindergarteners through 12th graders, as well as families! Join friends, new and old, at Lutherhaven this summer and experience God’s message of love as it spreads like “Wildfire!” Register online at www.lutherhaven.org or call 260.636.7101 for more information.

As in year’s past, there are scholarships available to members of Immanuel. To apply for one just write the child’s name, age, camp session attending and the cost on a piece of paper and place this paper on the secretary’s desk. Deadline to apply is May 1st. Any questions on the scholarships please speak to Pastor Kuhlman.

LWML NEWS - For many years, LWML members have collected postage stamps to be sold in order to raise funds which will be applied to funding mission projects. If it is a used stamp used on an old envelope; LWML society can trim, sort, and take them where they need to be delivered. If you would like to help with this endeavor, please put stamps in the yellow box found on the LWML table. For more information on LWML missions projects, please contact Alyssa Grawcock.

UPDATING RECORDS - We are currently updating our membership records. If any of you have a new address, change of phone number/add a cellphone number please contact Elizabeth Pfaflman. We appreciate your help with this project!

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays at 10AM. All are welcome.

PORTALS OF PRAYER - Portals of Prayer devotional books for April-June are available at the back of the church and at the side entrance.

LOOK UP - Looking Up is your first step to seeing past your struggles. Mental and behavioral health issues can be a silent battle. But there's always hope on the horizon. You can start by looking here for resources, information, and providers.

- <https://lookupindiana.org>
- Call 877-257-0208 - Available 24 hours every day
- Text LookUp to 494949 - Available 24 hours every day

INFORMATION RACK- last week's bulletin; extra newsletters; Visitors Packet; Portals of Prayer; Lutheran Witness; Cross Connection; Thrivent Dollars information; Lutherans for Life.

WEEKLY SERVICE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS are now on our website. The service can be found under Family Altar. The announcements in the bulletin each week can be seen on our website **under Blog and then correct month.**

ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUPS

- Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana
<https://mhanortheastindiana.org>
260-422-6441; info@mhanortheastindiana.org

Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana offers a free anxiety and depression support group on Wednesdays at 6 P.M. No formal diagnosis is required. The group is currently meeting via Zoom. Email Lacey Holt to sign up at: lholt@mhanortheastindiana.org

- Mental Health Grace Alliance
<https://mentalhealthgracealliance.org/your-personal-journey>

Mental Health Grace Alliance offers Bible study books that combine relevant Bible studies, neuroscience, and practical tools to help those experiencing a mental health difficulty to manage stressors, increase calm through rest and joy, reframe negative thoughts and nurture healthy relationships. These books are best used in small groups. *Living Grace* is a 16-week study for adults, and *Redefine Grace* is a 10-week study for high school and college age students. Materials are available online.

- NAMI Fort Wayne
<https://www.namifortwayne.org>
260-447-8990; faithnet@namifortwayne.org

NAMI Ft. Wayne provides free support groups for those living with mental illness and also for adult family and friends of people living with mental illness. Call the NAMI Ft. Wayne office to find out their current meeting schedule.