



May 3, 2026
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Seymour, IN

THE 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER/CONFIRMATION May 3 & 4, 2026

Welcome to Worship! Today we celebrate the faith confessed by the Class of 2026, which has been confessed by each generation going back to the early church. Established on the cornerstone of Christ, this faith endures all trials and binds us together as living members of His body, the church.

1st Time Guests: We're glad you're here and invite you to stop by the *Welcome Center* near the center aisle after the service for a small hospitality gift. It's a chance to learn more about our congregation and ministries. We hope you'll join us again soon!

Please register your attendance and Communion in the Record of Fellowship.

A "**Wee Wiggle Room**" is below the Narthex. A Comfort Room is in the Atrium.

10:15 A.M. – NO BIBLE CLASSES TODAY, since it is Confirmation Sunday.

Children's Activity Bags are located in the Narthex. Please return after worship.

Holy Communion will be offered at **11:15**. If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church and wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms when standing at the rail. Gluten free wafers are in plastic sleeves. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one from the tray. Wine with alcohol removed is in the tray center.

+THE ORDER OF SERVICE+

THE PRELUDE: "You are the Way; through You Alone" -Healey Willan

THE OPENING HYMN: "The Church's One Foundation" **Hymn 644**

- 1 The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.

O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

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THE RESPONSES: (L: Leader; C: Congregation)

L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

C: Amen!

L: As God's baptized children, let us confess our sins, knowing His promise to forgive us.

C: We confess, O Lord, that we have sinned against You by selfish thoughts, hurtful words, and unloving actions. We deserve Your punishment, but plead for mercy for the sake of Christ, who died for those sins. Forgive us, Lord.

L: God desires not the death of the sinner, but that we repent and live! Because Jesus took your sins and died for them, He gives you life! As Scripture says in 1 John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin." In Christ, you are forgiven!

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

L: 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. C: Amen.

THE WORD OF THE MONTH: (We speak together) Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

THE FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2, 51-60

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . . And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . . You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the

heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+++ 9:00 THE ANTHEM: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” -LSB 411

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-14 C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

THE HYMN: “Thine Forever, God of Love”

Hymn 687

- 1 Thine forever, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be Here and in eternity!
- 2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend, O defend us to the end!
- 3 Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.
- 4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care, Let us all Thy goodness share.
- 5 Thine forever! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv'n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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THE SERMON: "Way, Truth, Life"

THE PRAYERS

+++ 9:00 & 7:00 THE RENEWAL OF VOWS: (see Order of Confirmation below)

+++ 11:15 THE PROMISES OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS

The Parents of the Confirmands will please stand.

Pastor: God has entrusted the lives of these children to your care. Today they take a greater responsibility for their faith and life, but they still need your support. Will you continue to guide and direct, support and encourage your child in word, in deed, and in example?

Parents: Yes, with the help of God. (Parents may then be seated)

The Sponsors of the Confirmands will please stand.

Pastor: You were chosen to serve as sponsors when these students were baptized. We thank you for assisting their parents in bringing them up in the Christian faith. Will you still pray for and encourage these students that they may continue to grow in the Christian faith?

Sponsors: Yes, with the help of God.

The Sponsors may be seated; the Confirmands will rise.

+++ 11:15 THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION:

Confirmation Address

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded You; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever

denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Profession of Faith

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

R *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

R *Yes, I believe 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.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, 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.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R *I do.*

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins.

As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

++++ 11:15 THE CONFIRMATION OF STUDENTS

THE CONFIRMATION HYMN: "Christ Be My Leader"

Hymn 861

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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+++ 11:15 COMMUNION LITURGY

Preface

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ,... This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Hymns: 628, *Anthem: "Evening and Morning"*, 526, 722, 688, 411, 620

628 Your Table I Approach

- 1 Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

Text: Public domain

526 You Are the Way; through You Alone

- 1 You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.
- 2 You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

Text: Public domain

722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessèd Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

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688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

1 "Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide.

2 "I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.

3 "My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express, With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.

4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul's salvation,
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

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411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

ref In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

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Nunc Dimittis

C O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,

For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:

A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;

For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

THE BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you... C **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Hymn 922

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing — You are My own.
- 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
- 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

THE POSTLUDE: "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" -Kevin Hildebrand

Preacher: Pastor Ralph Blomenberg **Lector:** Vicar Max Johnston

Liturgists: Pastor Philip E. Bloch & Pastor William G. Fredstrom

Organist: Mr. Paul Scheiderer **9:00 Soloist:** Aubrey Stahl **11:15 Soloist:** Mr. Noah Sutton

Before retiring, Pastor Rodriguez helped instruct this class, and we have invited him to assist in confirming them.

Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.