

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT**

MARCH 10, 2024

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
956.463.1305
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**Website:
lutheranmercedes.
com**

***Sunday*
9:00 A.M.**

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

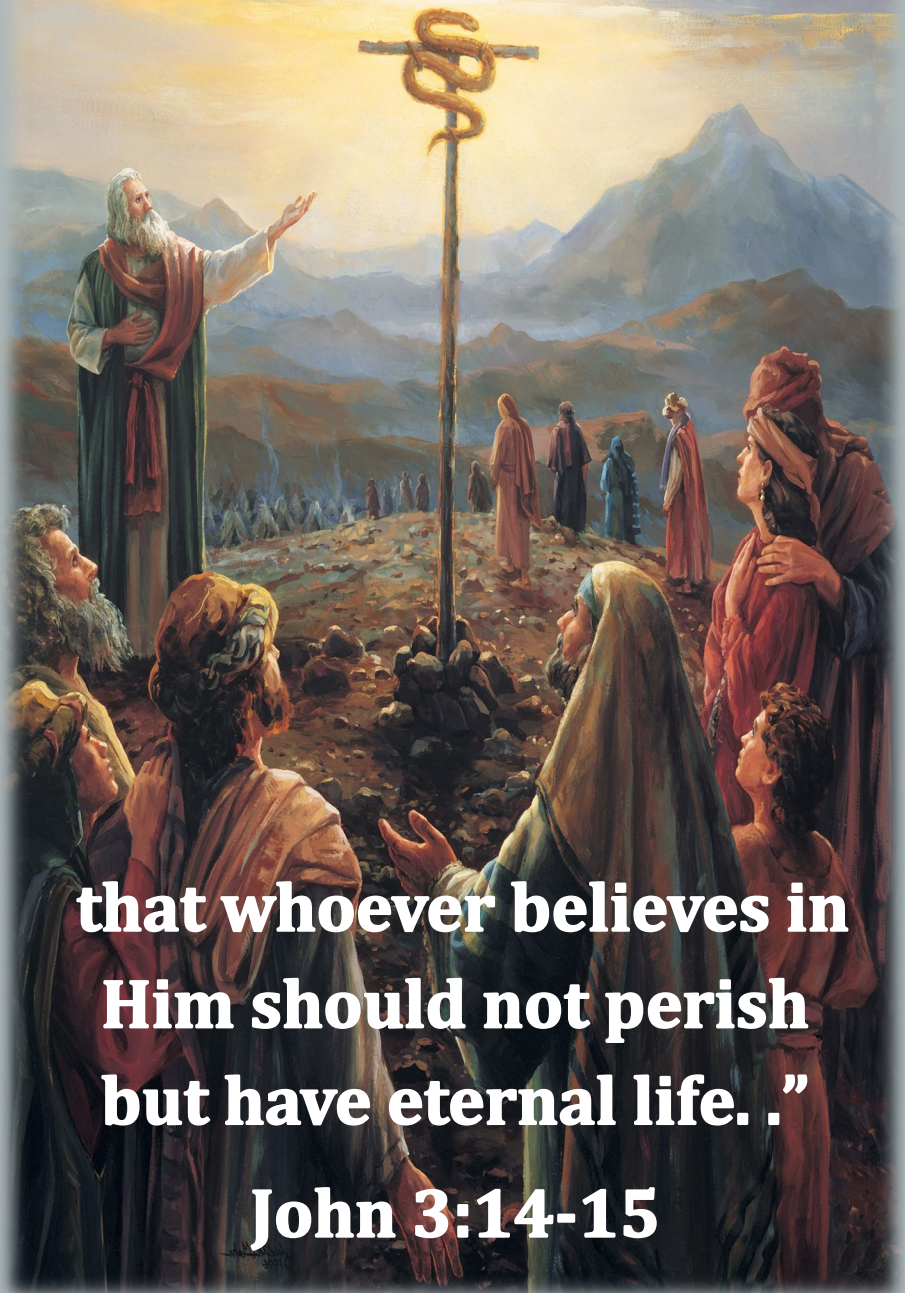
**Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs, M-F
8 am to 12 pm
CCLI # 2585510**

**“ And as Moses lifted up the
serpent in the wilderness,
even so must
the Son of Man be lifted up,**



**that whoever believes in
Him should not perish
but have eternal life. .”**

John 3:14-15

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 10, 2024

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

Next week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Lord Jesus Christ, You have loved me with an everlasting love that grants me eternal life. Burn Your love ever stronger within my heart, Lord, so that I may love others as You have loved me; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

OPENING HYMN*God Loved the World So That He Gave* **LSB 571**

1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

(Continue on next page) ³

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

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1*

P The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.

P One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

C For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

P The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Numbers 21:4–9*

(Moses lifts up the bronze serpent to save the people of Israel.)

4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." 6 So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it,

(Continue on next page) ⁵

shall live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon: v. 19*

P Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses.

C Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

P Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

C And gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

P They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; they found no city to dwell in.

C Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

P Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses.

C And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

P Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

C For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

P Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:1–10* (We are saved by grace through faith.)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of

the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:14-21* (God so loved the world.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Continue on next page) 7

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.

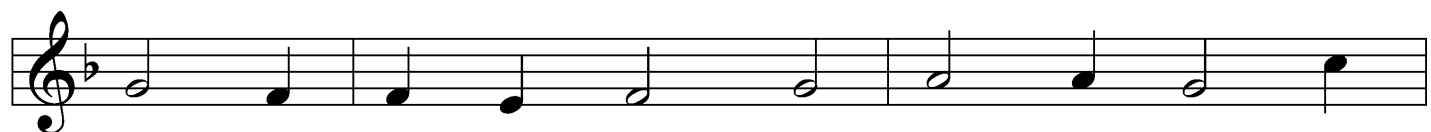
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please sit

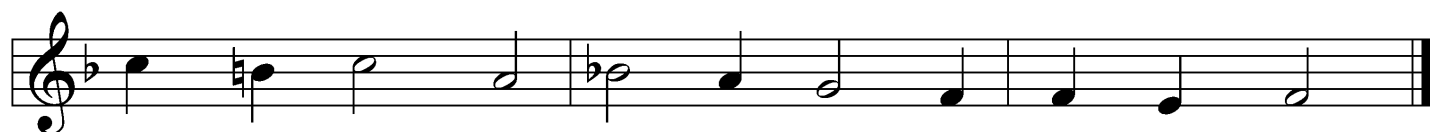
HYMN OF THE DAY *The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace* **LSB 580**



1 The Gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who sent His
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who made the a -
3 It brings the Sav - ior's righ - teous - ness To robe our
4 It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and



Son to save our race, Pro - claims how Je - sus
ton - ing sac - ri - fice, And calls the souls with
souls in roy - al dress; From all our guilt it
Sa - tan and the grave; It works the faith which



lived and died That we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
guilt op - pressed To come and find e - ter - nal rest.
brings re - lease And gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
firm - ly clings To all the trea - sures which it brings.

5 It bears to all the tidings glad
And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers
And banishes their guilty fears.

6 May we in faith its message learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"One directional in Jesus!"

(John 3:16)

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566 vs. 1-4



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.

(Continue on next page) 9

4 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

[using American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord Jesus Christ, as we come before You with our prayers and petitions, we thank You for Your genuine love, and we pray, Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C with more fervent love for You.

P Lord Jesus Christ, show Your love to all those who have experienced broken families, homes, and churches. Surround them with Your love and with people who will love them as You love them. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C with more fervent love for You.

P Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your love to all those who have abandoned the faith. Strengthen us to lovingly invite them toward Your genuine love for the world. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C with more fervent love for You.

P Lord Jesus Christ, in Your earthly life You experienced the death of those You loved. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in such grief, [especially . . .]. Point them to the hope of eternal life with You. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C with more fervent love for You.

P Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are single. Encourage them with the love of friends and family. Provide caring people to remind them that they are not alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C with more fervent love for You.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared many good works for us to do in our earthly lives. Give us courage to do those good works with joy, expecting nothing in return, knowing we are saved by grace alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C with more fervent love for You.

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C with more fervent love for You.

P Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised in love to hear our prayers; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

All 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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

SENDING HYMN *Salvation unto Us Has Come* LSB 555 vs.1-3,6,7,10



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
6 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us sal -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 Lord, I plead, Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
 Your Word cannot be broken;
 Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
 No falsehood have You spoken.
 Baptized into Your precious name,
 My faith cannot be put to shame,
 And I shall never perish.

△ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
 To Father, Son, and Spirit,
 The God who saved us by His grace;
 All glory to His merit.
 O triune God in heav'n above,
 You have revealed Your saving love;
 Your blessed name we hallow.

Text and tune: Public domain

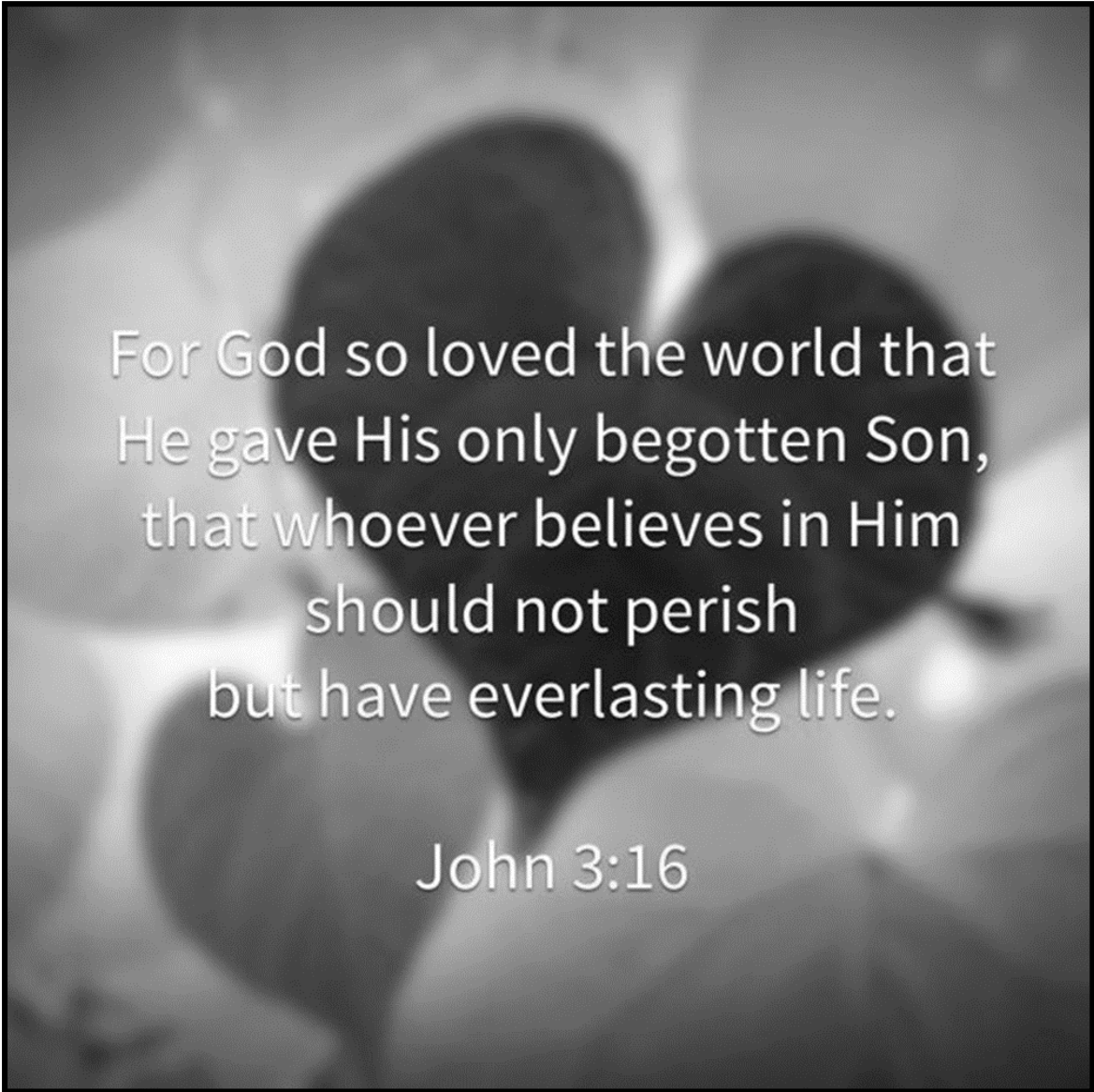
DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish
but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

Announcements

Portals of Prayer

April to June 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

Adult Bible Class/Sunday School
at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Weber will be leading the class.

March Activities

Youth Confirmation Class
Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in Social Hall

Mid-week 5 Lent Service
Wednesday, March 13th
5:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. Service

Men's Steak Dinner/Bible Study
Thursday, March 21st @ 6:00 p.m.

Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo
March 7 - 17, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran School
Spring Break: March 11-15
Easter Break
Good Friday, March 29
Easter Monday, April 1

You are cordially invited to attend a reception to welcome the Helmrick and Connor Families, after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**
+ + +



Hey! What happened to the “a” word?

There’s one word we often use in the Church that isn’t used during Lent. Usually we use it after responsories, antiphons and other parts of our worship. Have you guessed what the word is yet? If you guessed “alleluia,” then you are right. We stop singing and saying “alleluia” during Lent and won’t speak it again until Easter morning.

What does “alleluia” mean and why don’t we say it during Lent?

“Alleluia” is a Hebrew word that means “Praise the Lord.” Since we focus on the sufferings and death of Jesus during Lent, we stop using this joyful word until we celebrate Jesus’ glorious resurrection. On Easter morning the first words you hear will be: “The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”



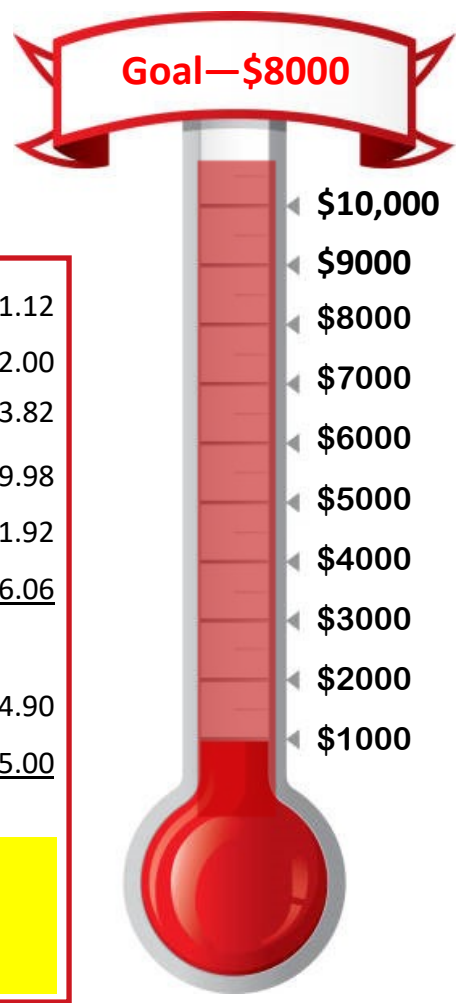
Parents:

During worship, help your children to look for places in the service where “alleluia” has been omitted. Notice the red writing in the hymnal. These words will help to point out when and where we might use or refrain from using the “a” word.



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Bunk Bed Fundraiser



14 bunk beds	\$2,331.12
28 mattresses	\$2,652.00
28 mattress protectors	\$493.82
2 sleeper sofas	\$579.98
14 double door lockers	\$1,641.92
<u>2 single door lockers</u>	<u>\$226.06</u>
Total cost:	\$7,924.90
<u>Raised to date:</u>	<u>\$10,825.00</u>

Thank you for helping reach and surpass our goal!



MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

This week's memory verse: *Luke 9:23*

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

For Thrivent Members

Please consider directing your Thrivent Choice dollars to

Immanuel Lutheran School

*before the **March 31** deadline. **Thank you***

2/28/2024

Mid-week 3 Lent Service	39
Plate:	\$ 193.00
Envelopes:	\$ 197.00
Memorial:	
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 390.00

3/3/2024

Sunday Worship	98
Plate:	\$ 788.00
Envelopes:	\$ 2,660.00
Donation: Bunk Beds	\$ 4,075.00
Baseball Field	\$ 50.00
Memorial: Don Herbsleb	\$ 50.00
Loretta Eilers	\$ 425.00
Total:	\$ 8,048.00
Bible Class:	34
	\$ 41.00

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45

Jesus Is Lifted Up on the Cross so that We May Look to Him and Live

The people sinned by speaking “against God and against Moses,” and the Lord called them to repentance by sending fiery serpents, which “bit the people, so that many people of Israel died” (Num. 21:4–6). When the people confessed their sin, the Lord provided a means of rescue from death. He instructed Moses to “make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole,” so that “if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live” (Num. 21:8–9). Thus, God sent His Son into the world, in the likeness of our sin and death, and lifted Him up on the pole of the cross, that whoever looks to Him in faith “may have eternal life” (John 3:14–16). By His cross, “the light has come into the world,” not for condemnation, but “that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17–19). While we “were dead in the trespasses and sins” in which we once lived (Eph. 2:1), God loved us, calling us to repentance and raising us up with Christ to live “with him in the heavenly places” (Eph. 2:4–6).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	March Sunday Servants	
Elder:	Dan Wehling	
Altar Guild:	S. Wehling/R. Cisneros/M. Perez	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am