

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Fifth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2026



AS WE GATHER

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

Lent is a time when God prepares His people to celebrate the Paschal Feast, the resurrection of Jesus, with sincerity and truth. In the Reading from Ezekiel 37, we see the power of the Word that transforms dry bones into living flesh with the breath of the Spirit. This same Spirit lives in us and will raise us at the Last Day, which is exactly what we hear from Paul in the Reading from Romans 8. The Spirit who raised Christ will also give life to us. Having received the Spirit in Baptism, we join with Martha in confessing boldly that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who comes to us today in His Word and Sacrament and will come again to call us out of our graves.

PRELUDE

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” #819

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 130:1-4*

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord!

People: **O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

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

People: **Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our inactions. We have lived according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. 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.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. You are precious in His sight because Christ is in you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

ANTIPHON

Pastor: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

People: ♪ For He is our maker.

VENITE *hymnal page 220-221*

♪ O come, let us sing unto the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

For the LORD is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, and He made it,
and His hands form-ed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our maker.
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture
and the sheep of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son ☩ and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 37:1-14
(Ezekiel prophesies over the bones, and the Lord brings them to life.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 8:1-11
(The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to you.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE John 11:25

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.

HOLY GOSPEL John 11:1-45 *(Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 11th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN "O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life" #552 v1,9,10

SERMON Pr. Mark Croucher

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #781 v1-2

**We give Thee but Thine own,
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee,**

**May we Thy bounties thus,
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Because the Lord has inclined His ear to us, let us call upon the One who delivers us in our time of need.

Lord of life, You look upon the ways in which sin has withered our existence, and You speak Your words of life over us. Bless all pastors, that they may speak that same word with the faithfulness of Ezekiel, for the benefit of Your church and her mission,

People: **for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Pastor: Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, setting us free from the law of sin and death by sending Your own Son in the likeness of human flesh. Help us to forsake the ways of sinful flesh and to walk according to the Spirit who lives in us,

People: **for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Pastor: Fearless Lord, even in the threat of death You pursue those You love. Give us courage to follow You into those places where death taunts and persecution lingers. Help us to fix our eyes on the One who is the founder and perfecter of our faith,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Pastor: Almighty God, precious in Your sight is the death of Your saints. Strengthen our leaders, our government, and all You have put in place to protect us, that they look upon every life entrusted to their protection with the same care,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, You deliver those who cry to You from the depths of distress and anguish. Visit the sick, the dying, and the grieving, especially Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta. Bring them Your peace, especially as they might question Your ways and Your timing. Comfort them with the hope of life everlasting, when Your Word will restore their bodies again,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Pastor: Receiving the fullness of Your Spirit and offering these prayers to You, O gracious Lord, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: ♪ Thanks be to God.

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.

People: ♪ Amen.

HYMN “Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious” #548

POSTLUDE

THE MESSENGER

March 22, 2026

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Rev. Mark Croucher
Linda Dunn, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler, and Luetta Buchholz

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: 18 total: 1 guest

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, March 29th is "**Dime-Sized**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler God doesn't look for valuable, desirable, beautiful people so that He can love them. God loves first, and by loving them He makes people valuable, desirable, and beautiful. 1 Corinthians 13:11

Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.