

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026



AS WE GATHER

Led by the Spirit, Jesus Is Tempted

Only weeks ago, Jesus was called out by John as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Now Jesus reveals what He must do for us and our salvation. He must stand where Adam stood, tempted by the devil. This time, however, Jesus refuses to surrender His righteousness in the face of evil but preserves it so that He might give it to you and to me. With confidence in Christ's righteousness, which we wear by Baptism, and His forgiveness, which restores us when we fall, we know that the devil can harm us no more. We belong to Christ. In the power of Christ, we are made strong before the tempter's power, and in Him we are brought through death to life everlasting.

PRELUDE *"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now," arranged by Wilbur Held*

WELCOME AND BIRTHDAY BLESSING

2/25 Chuck Krueger; 2/26 Carl Hepting

♪ **Thanks for our friends who celebrate
And God's rich blessings contemplate.
Praise for another year on earth.
Praise to the Lord who gives us birth. Amen.**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "O Christ, You Walked the Road" #424

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 32:5*

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to You.

People: **I did not cover up my iniquity.**

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

People: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. 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. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.
O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 Genesis 3:1-21
(Sin entered into the world through the fall of Adam.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 5:12-19
(By one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience shall the many be declared righteous.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE *Ephesians 6:11*

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

(Our Lord is tempted by Satan in the wilderness.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th 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 "Christ, the Life of All the Living" #420

SERMON Pr. Mark Croucher

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory," arranged by Wilbur Held

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: We give You thanks, O Lord, that You invite us to pray and have promised to hear and answer the prayers of Your people. By Your Holy Spirit enable us to plead for mercy in the name of Jesus and with confidence that whatever Your answer, it will be best for us.

That we stand firm in the face of temptation and be clothed with the strength of the Lord Jesus in time of trial, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we neither be distracted nor enticed by the voice of the devil, the world, and the desires of our own flesh, but endure through the days of trouble through the Word of the Lord that endures forever, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That our nation and those who lead us be equipped with wisdom and faith, that we lead quiet and peaceable lives in Christ, that the nations learn pathways of peace, and that we not be overcome by fear or despair, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the sick and all who suffer know the healing and strength of the Spirit in their afflictions, that the dying abide in peace, and that the grieving be granted comfort, especially Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian, Sandra, and Luetta, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the work of the Kingdom be prospered among us and through us, that those who have not heard rejoice to hear the Gospel, and that we be generous in supplying the poor and the homeless, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That daily we offer up prayers on behalf of the church, her ministers, and her ministries and for all according to their need, interceding on behalf of others even as Christ intercedes for us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the church would enjoy unity of doctrine and harmony in her work, that many be raised up for church work, and that we offer the Lord the sacrifice of praise from our lips and tithes and offerings from our hands, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the Lord grant us all good things as are needful for this body and life and prevent all things harmful to us and our salvation, let us pray in the name of Jesus, whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God and one Lord, now and forever.

People: **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 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #427

POSTLUDE *Prelude in G minor, by J.S. Bach*

THE MESSENGER

February 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 Rayburn, Organist

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

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: 19 total, 4 guests

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, March 1st is "**The Fifth Act**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Through the Bible, God invites us to help Him complete the unfinished drama He's been writing for the world. 1 Corinthians 4:1 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.