

Immanuel Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 5326

Kansas City, Missouri 64131

www.immanuelcmsgcmo.org

ImmanuelLCMS42@gmail.com



Second Sunday In Lent March 1, 2026



AS WE GATHER

Born Anew from Above

“Born again” has become a catch phrase in our age. It is not merely that Jesus says one must be born again but born from above. This new birth happens not from human will or desire but solely from the love and act of God working by the Spirit. Baptismal water is the womb through which we are born again and born from above to the life that death cannot overcome and is eternal. As we make our way through Lent, we are constantly reminded of the truth of Luther’s explanation: we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. The Spirit calls us to the font, gathers the baptized around His Word and Table, delivers us from the darkness of unbelief, and makes holy those who belong to the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE, WELCOME & BIRTHDAY BLESSING 3/7 Zeke Croucher

♪ 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 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" #435

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 121:1-2, 8*

Pastor: From where does my help come?

People: **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: The Lord will preserve your going out and your coming in,

People: **from this time forth and forevermore.**

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.

✂ WORD ✂

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace.

**People: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace.
Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *pew hymnal 204*

♪ **To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth;
Good-will from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing;
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole-be-gotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins a-way.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in Pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever; Be worshipped and adored.
You with the Holy Spirit; A-lone are Lord Most High;
In God the Father's glory; "A-men"! our glad re-ply.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, You promised Abraham that he would become the father of many nations. Grant to us that we may see in Jesus the fulfillment of Your promise and covenant, with Your holy church, sealed in His blood on the cross. Bring us to the righteousness that comes by faith in Christ, our Savior; in the holy name of Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God and one Lord, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 12:1-9

(God's call to Abraham and His promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

(Abraham and his heirs are declared righteous by grace through faith)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE John 3:16

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

HOLY GOSPEL John 3:1-17

(Except a man be born anew, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd 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 NICENE CREED *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN “Not All the Blood of Beasts” #431

SERMON Pastor Mark Croucher

OFFERING and OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us come before the throne of God’s grace in the name of Jesus and bid Him on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need.

For grace that with Abraham our father, we trust in the Lord for all things and this faith be counted unto us as righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to trust in our Baptism from above and for the Spirit to enable us to show forth the fruits of this new life in words and works all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to enjoy a good government and good leaders who do what is good and right and honorable in the sight of the Lord and for the pursuit of peace among the people in our land and across the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to proclaim with courage the Good News of our Lord's death and resurrection and for the Spirit to open the hearts of those who hear that they might believe in Him whom the Father has sent, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace upon every pastor and church worker that they faithfully fulfill their vocations and for the Lord to raise up many who will follow them into the Lord's service, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to provide for the widow and the fatherless, the single and the married, the sick and those who suffer, the grieving and the dying, especially Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta, that in their need they know the comfort of God's presence and have confidence in His mercy to supply all that they need for this life and for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to receive with ready hearts and in repentance all the blessings of this Holy Communion and that the body and blood of our Lord be kept in holy hearts and lives until we receive the heavenly food on high, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to enjoy the good fruits of the earth with thankful hearts, for grace to be generous with those in need, and for grace to love our neighbors as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Remembering faithful Abraham who was counted righteous by faith and giving thanks for those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, we pray You to bring us at last with them into the place of eternal light and life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Lord, have mercy. Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is pleasing to You and our delight to give voice to our faith, singing with faithful Abraham and all who rejoiced in the righteousness so lovingly given without merit or labor on our part, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has given us the new birth of water and the Word and bestowed the Spirit by whom we shall be brought to everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, and all the company of heaven, we join in their unending hymn, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

pew hymnal #208

♪ Ho-ly; ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth 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

Pastor: Holy God, mighty Lord, You raised up Abraham as patriarch of Your people and prophet to point to Christ, his greater Son, and in Christ You fulfilled Your promise to make him the father of many nations. Christ has by His suffering and death won for You a holy people, cleansed in the water of Your grace and clothed with a righteousness from Christ alone. As He has come to do Your will, grant us that we may follow our Lord and be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting. Strengthened and nourished by the blood of His covenant poured out for us, we come at His bidding to the Table where He delivers up His own flesh to be our food and the foretaste of eternity, which He shall usher in at the appointed day.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

AGNUS DEI *pew hymnal #210*

♪ **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.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS *pew hymnal #211*

♪ **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.**

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, in Your mercy You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude and counted him righteous by faith. You sent Your own Son to accomplish this

promise and establish a church for all nations and a people declared righteous in Christ. Grant that we who have received of Your goodness in this Holy Sacrament may live in holiness and faith all the days of our lives, until at last we are reunited with all of the heirs of Abraham in the glory of life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, Abraham's Son and Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" #423

POSTLUDE

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THE MESSENGER

March 1, 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 and Luetta Buchholz

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, March 8th is "**What Was the Price on That?**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola When we couldn't pay the price of our redemption, God did so completely by the life of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.