

# Immanuel Lutheran Church


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## First Sunday in Lent March 9, 2025



### AS WE GATHER

#### God's Truth: Easy and Powerful

The cross has always been an offense. To this day, the same mystery stands: His royal throne is but a frightful cross of crucifixion—His kingdom hidden to the eyes. When confronted with the facts of God's Word, many cannot see past this mystery. Yet it is the power of God's Word that gives people the gift of faith and new eyes to see what was incomprehensible and secret now revealed by the Spirit of God. God's truth is that in the death of Christ, redemption and forgiveness of sin now avails for the entire world. Sinners are delivered, justified before God by faith in the blood of Jesus shed on the cross and given the ability to repent and believe and become children of God for eternity. For sinful mankind, this life-giving truth is impossible to believe or understand. Only because of the mighty Word of God proclaimed to the world by His church and by the power of the Spirit is that otherwise mysterious Word actually easy and powerful to understand and to believe.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN**      “God Loved the World So That He Gave”      #571

*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.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**      *Psalm 124:8; Romans 10:13, 10*

**Pastor:**      Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People:**      **who made heaven and earth.**

**Pastor:**      Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**People:**      **For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *Psalm 91:9*

**Pastor:**      Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith and confess our sins unto God our Father, that we may receive His forgiveness.

**People:**      **O God, we believe Your Word is true for it reveals our sin for which we deserve Your rebuke and judgment. Yet even more, we believe in Your promise of mercy and forgiveness for the sake of Christ. We therefore confess to You all our sins. We plead the suffering and sacrifice of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the all-sufficient price of our redemption, and beg Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of faith in our Savior alone. Hear us in Your mercy and according to Your promise in Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: “Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge,” upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

**People: Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

**INTROIT** *Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16*

Pastor: When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

**People: I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him**

Pastor: and show him My salvation. Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place,

**People: the Most High, who is my refuge, no evil shall be allowed to befall you**

Pastor: no plague come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you

**People: to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up,**

Pastor: lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder;

**People: the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

**People: With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.**

**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** Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
*(Moses prepares Israel for entrance into the Promised Land)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** Romans 10:8b-13 *(The message of salvation to all.)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**VERSE** *Ephesians 6:11*

Pastor: Put on the whole armor of God,

**People: that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 4:1-13 *(The temptation of Jesus.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Lord, throughout These Forty Days" #418

**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:** Lord God, almighty Father, we give You thanks for Your clear and mighty Word by which You brought the entire universe into being and also ourselves as individual members of the human family. More than that, however, we praise You for re-creating us by faith in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be numbered among those counted already now as citizens of Your heavenly, eternal kingdom. Continue to form, guide, and direct us that we may be salt and light in this world, witnesses of Your eternal grace and glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** We pray for Your whole church of every time and every place—all those who rejoice with us in the truth of Your Holy Word as well as those living amid the suppression of Your truth who are challenged for their faith in the clarity of Your Word by the lies and confusion of unbelief. Enlighten the testimony of steadfastness of faith in the face of all falsehood. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Enable all who preach and teach Your Law and Gospel, those called to administer Your Holy Sacraments, and every servant of Your people with the stamina and conviction required to faithfully convey Your Word of truth both in season and out of season so as to convince, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and patience. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Graciously grant to our nation, our people, and those who lead and serve in public office wisdom to seek and acknowledge Your divine will, that justice and peace may prevail among all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant Your healing and comfort to all who are sick or hospitalized, those cast down by sorrow or fear, and all who are in any need of body or spirit. Especially we pray for Liz, Myron Betty, Karla and Pr. Koenig. Bless all who administer Your love in any way. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We give thanks to You for all who have died with the sign of faith and are with You. As together we await the glorious day of the resurrection of all flesh and our entry into Your eternal kingdom, grant the peace of faith and trust in Your abiding presence to us who still contend for Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Bless we 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** “Oh Christ, You Walked the Road” #424

**POSTLUDE**

## **THE MESSENGER**

March 9, 2025

**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 and "Like" us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram. 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:** Pr. Mark Croucher  
Dan Henggeler, Organist

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass and Pr. Cliff Koenig

**LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENANCE:** 29 Total  
Members: 20  
Guests: 4 adults and 5 children

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** theme for next Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> is "**Light of the World**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Jesus is the Light of the world. However, He sometimes keeps that light out of the visible range. We can't see it, but it changes what we see. (John 8:12) Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.