

# Immanuel Lutheran Church


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## Third Sunday in Lent March 23, 2025



### AS WE GATHER

#### What's the Deal with Eating and Drinking?

A main emphasis of our Lenten discipline is our struggle against temptations to sin and toward true repentance that leads to living faithful Christian lives. As our physical well-being depends in part on healthy choices of diet, in today's Readings God uses the metaphor of eating and drinking to warn and encourage His people to avoid the temptations of the world and our own sin that leads us away from God and to rely constantly on the forgiveness and faith that God provides to enable us to lead godly lives. In the Epistle, Paul has in mind how God provides for us in His Word and Sacraments. We are to remember not only that we *were* baptized but that we *are* baptized, meaning God still provides us with saving, bold faith that relies on His mercy and grace because we belong to Him now. The center of the Divine Service is the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, through which we are given forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—all the benefits won for us by the cross and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. Today we are encouraged to receive and rely on God's gifts and provision constantly, that we may maintain a healthy and strong faith in the face of all adversities and challenges.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN**      “Jesus Refuge of the Weary”      #423

*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 85:4,7*

**Pastor:**      Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**People:**      **and put away Your indignation toward us!**

**Pastor:**      Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,

**People:**      **and grant us Your salvation.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *1 Corinthians 10:13*

**Pastor:**      God has made us His people by our Baptism into Christ. He graciously provides us with all we need to live in true faith, confidence, and hope. Let us present ourselves before Him, confessing our sins and need for His mercy, and receive His promised help.

**People:**      **Almighty God, our Father in heaven, we come to You seeking Your forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith that we may live and serve You faithfully. We confess all our sins against You and against those whom we have hurt or failed to help. Even our very thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. In true sorrow, we ask for Your grace, Your forgiveness, and that You strengthen our faith, all for the sake and in the praise of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful.” Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

**People: but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Pastor: For You are not a God who delights in wickedness;

**People: evil may not | dwell with You.**

Pastor: The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;

**People: You hate all evildoers.**

Pastor: You destroy those who speak lies;

**People: the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

Pastor: But I, through the abundance of Your steadfast love, will enter Your house.

**People: I will bow down toward Your holy temple in the fear of You.  
Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my  
enemies;**

Pastor: make Your way straight before me.

**People: 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.  
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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 33:7-20 (*Ezekiel is Israel's watchman.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (*Warning against idolatry*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **VERSE** 2 Peter 3:9b, c

Pastor: The Lord is patient toward you,

**People: not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 13:1-9     *(Repent or perish)*

Pastor:     The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13<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**     “I Walk in Danger All the Way”     #716

**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:     Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

For the faithful proclamation of Christ’s saving name, that God’s people be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who are sick, especially Liz, Myron, Betty, Karla and Pastor Koenig, and all who are injured or suffer in body or soul, that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and trust, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and 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** "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" #711

## **POSTLUDE**

## **THE MESSENGER**

March 23, 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  
Linda Rayburn, Organist

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

**LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENANCE:** 20 Total  
Members: 15  
Guests: 5

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** theme for next Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> is "**The Difference Between Anger and Contempt**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler God gets angry at sin, but behind that anger, God is love. We believe this only because of Jesus. (John 11:35)  
Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.