

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
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Immanuel means “God With Us”

Sixth Wednesday in Lent

March 25, 2026

PRELUDE

HYMN, “*Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared*”

Hymn 208

1. Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared
This feast for my salvation,
Your very body and your blood;
Thus, at your invitation,
With weary heart, by sin oppressed,
I come to you for needed rest;
I need your peace, your pardon.

Green Book

3. I eat this bread, I drink this cup,
Your promise firm believing;
In truth your body and your blood
My lips are here receiving.
Your word remains forever true;
All things are possible for you;
Your searching love has found me.

4. Unaided reason cannot see
What eager faith embraces,
But this consoling supper, Lord,
Each restless doubt displaces.
Your wondrous ways are not confined
Within the limits of my mind;
Your promise wholly triumphs.

Samuel Kinner (1603-1668)

PSALM 34:1-9

- P** I will extol the LORD at all times;
C **His praise will always be on my lips.**
P I will glory in the LORD;
C **Let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**
P Glorify the LORD with me;
C **Let us exalt his name together.**
P I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
C **He delivered me from all my fears.**
P Those who look to him are radiant;
C **Their faces are never covered with shame.**
P This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
C **The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and he delivers them.**
P Taste and see that the LORD is good;
C **Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.**
P Fear the LORD, you his holy people,
C **For those who fear him lack nothing.** *(NIV)*

A PRAYER BY MARTIN LUTHER

C **O my God, I am a sinner, and yet I am not a sinner.
Alone and apart from Christ, I am a sinner.
But in my Lord Jesus Christ and with him, I am no sinner.
I firmly believe that he has destroyed all my sins
with his precious blood.
The sign of all this is that I am baptized,
cleansed by God's word,
and declared absolved and freed from all my sins.
In the sacrament of the true body and blood
of my Lord Jesus Christ
I have received as a sure sign of grace
the forgiveness of sins.
This he has won and accomplished for me
by the shedding of his precious blood.
For this I thank him in eternity. Amen.**

HYMN, “Around You, O Lord Jesus”**LBW Hymn 496***Green Book*

1. Around you, O Lord Jesus,
Your own you gather still
To share the feast you give us
With grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly,
“Take, eat! This is my body!
Take, drink! This is my blood!”

2. We hear your invitation,
And heed, O Lord, your call;
Your word of consolation
Is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
It brings to us your blessing,
Which never will depart.

Frans Michael Franzén (1772-1847)

SCRIPTURE READING, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Instead, let a person examine himself and after doing so, let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy way because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment on himself.

(EHV)

SCRIPTURE READING, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. *(NRSV)*

SCRIPTURE READING,, Matthew 26:17-30

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. *(NRSV)*

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

Ⓟ What is Holy Communion?

Ⓢ **Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink.**

Ⓟ Where do the Scriptures say this?

Ⓢ **Matthew, Mark, Luke and Paul say:**

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Ⓟ What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?

Ⓢ **The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words: "*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*" These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**



Ⓟ How can eating and drinking do all this?

☑ **It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words:**

“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament.

And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: the forgiveness of sins.

Ⓟ When is a person rightly prepared to receive this sacrament?

☑ **Fasting and other outward preparations serve a good purpose.**

However, that person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words:

“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is neither prepared nor worthy, for the words “for you” require simply a believing heart.

Martin Luther’s Small Catechism (1529)

HYMN, “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” Hymn 226

1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.

2. Saved by that body, hallowed by that blood,
Whereby refreshed, we render thanks to God.

7. With heav’nly bread makes those who hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.

Seventh Century Latin Hymn

SERMON

Pastor David J. Baer

HYMN, “*Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness*” LBW Hymn 224

1. Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight’s splendor;
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav’nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Green Book

3. Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless;
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ’s own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation.

4. Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before you,
Love incarnate, I adore you;
Worthily let me receive you,
And, so favored, never leave you.

Johann Franck (1618-1677)



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CATECHISM PRAYER

❏ What is Holy Communion?

❏ **Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for instituting this sacrament,
in which you give me your true body and blood
in and with the bread and wine.
In the night in which you were betrayed,
you took bread and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to your disciples, saying:
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
Again, after supper, you took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
“This cup is the new testament in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.” Amen.**

❏ What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?

❏ **What wonderful benefits we receive from this sacrament,
Lord Jesus, especially as they are pointed out by the words:
“*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*”
Accept our gratitude for the assurance
that in the sacrament we receive
forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation;
for where there is forgiveness of sins,
there is also life and salvation. Amen.**

❏ How can eating and drinking do all this?

❏ **O God, keep my mind and heart focused
on the main thing in the sacrament.
It is not eating and drinking
that brings such great benefits, but the words:
“*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*”
Enable me to continue to believe these words
so that I may have exactly what they say:
the forgiveness of sins. Amen.**

☐ When is a person rightly prepared to receive this sacrament?

☑ **Help me, O God, to be rightly prepared to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.**

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose,

but make me well prepared and worthy

by strengthening my faith in these words:

“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

Take away my unbelief

and overcome any doubts that I may have in these words, for I do not wish to be unprepared or unworthy.

Lord Jesus, give me a believing heart

that the words “for you” truly are for me. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

BLESSING

☐ The almighty and merciful Lord,

the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,

bles and preserve you.

☑ **Amen.**

1. O Living Bread from heaven,
How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows!

2. My Lord, you here have led me
Within your holiest place,
And here yourself have fed me
With treasures of your grace;
For you have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

3. You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before your throne.

4. Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when you call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.

WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us tonight. We especially welcome our visitors. If you are unfamiliar with our worship, one of our members will gladly assist you. Visitors, please be sure to sign the guest register in the narthex. We hope that you will worship with us again soon.

A LIGHT SUPPER will be served following our service tonight. Please plan to stay after worship for the supper. We thank those who are serving our light supper tonight.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES will be offered at 9 a.m. on Palm Sunday and at 6:30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3). Please join us for these services as we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus for us.

A PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST will be served after worship on Sunday. Join us for this time of food and fellowship. We thank those who have volunteered to host the Palm Sunday breakfast.

WE ARE COLLECTING items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits during Lent. These kits help those throughout the world who are displaced from their homes by wars, disasters or violence. Items included in the kits are toothbrushes, nail clippers, bars of soap (4-5 oz.), sturdy combs, and light-weight bath-sized towels (52 x 27 maximum, dark color recommended). We will be assembling the LWR kits on Palm Sunday. Help make a difference for someone in need by bringing items for the kits.

A COMMUNITY EASTER CANTATA will be presented at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, and Tuesday, March 31, at Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis. The cantata is sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council and features singers from area churches. Some singers from Immanuel are participating in the cantata.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT from the North American Lutheran Church are available online. You can download the book, request a daily email or text message or read or listen to them online. You also can listen to the devotions on Facebook. To access the devotions or for more information go to thenalc.org/lent.