

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Fifth Wednesday in Lent

March 18, 2026

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## 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.**

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, Luke 22:14-23**

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!” Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

*(NRSV)*

## **SCRIPTURE READING, 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

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.

*(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, John 6:35, 51-58**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." ... "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

## 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."**

### **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.

## 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,  
bless 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.

# *More from Martin Luther*

In the same manner as we have heard regarding Holy Baptism, we must speak also concerning the other Sacrament, namely, these three points: What is it? What are its benefits? and Who is to receive it? And all these are established by the words by which Christ has instituted it, and which everyone who desires to be a Christian and go to the Sacrament should know.

Here we learn first what is of the greatest importance, namely, that the chief point is the Word and ordinance or command of God. For it has not been invented nor introduced by any man, but without anyone's counsel and deliberation it has been instituted by Christ.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Answer: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine which we Christians are commanded by the word of Christ to eat and to drink. And as we have said of Baptism that it is not simple water, so here also we say the Sacrament is bread and wine, but not mere bread and wine, such as are ordinarily served at the table, but bread and wine comprehended in, and connected with, the Word of God.

It is the Word which makes and distinguishes this Sacrament, so that it is not mere bread and wine, but is, and is called, the body and blood of Christ. For it is said: If the Word be joined to the element, it becomes a Sacrament. This saying of St. Augustine is so properly and so well put that he has scarcely said anything better. The Word must make a Sacrament of the element, else it remains a mere element.

Now here stands the Word of Christ: "Take, eat; this is my body; Drink ye all of it; this is the new testament in my blood," etc. Here we abide, and would like to see those who will constitute themselves His masters, and make it different from what He has spoken. It is true, indeed, that if you take away the Word or regard it without the words, you have nothing but mere bread and wine. But if the words remain with them, as they shall and must, then, in virtue of the same, it is truly the body and blood of Christ. For as the lips of Christ say and speak, so it is, as He can never lie or deceive.

The Word by which it became a Sacrament and was instituted does not become false because of the person or his unbelief. For He does not say: If you believe or are worthy, you receive my body and blood, but: Take, eat and drink; this is my body and blood. Likewise: Do this (namely, what I now do, institute, give, and bid you take). That is as much as to say, No matter whether you are worthy or unworthy, you have here His body and blood by virtue of these words which are added to the bread and wine. Only note and remember this well; for upon these words rest all our foundation, protection, and defense against all errors and deception that have ever come or may yet come.

Thus we have briefly the first point which relates to the essence of this Sacrament. Now examine further the efficacy and benefits on account of which really the Sacrament was instituted; which is also its most necessary part, that we may know what we should seek and obtain there. Now this is plain and clear from the words just mentioned: “This is My body and blood, given and shed for you, for the remission of sins.” Briefly that is as much as to say: For this reason we go to the Sacrament because there we receive such a treasure by and in which we obtain forgiveness of sins. Why so? Because the words stand here and give us this; for on this account He bids me eat and drink, that it may be my own and may benefit me, as a sure pledge and token, yea, the very same treasure that is appointed for me against my sins, death, and every calamity.

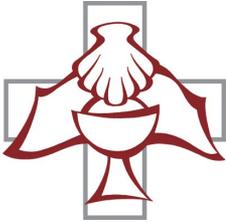
On this account it is indeed called a food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man. For by Baptism we are first born anew; but there still remains the old vicious nature of flesh and blood in man, and there are so many hindrances and temptations of the devil and of the world that we often become weary and faint, and sometimes also stumble. The Lord’s Supper is given as a daily food and sustenance so that our faith may refresh and strengthen itself and not weaken in the struggle but grow continually stronger.

***Selections from Martin Luther’s Large Catechism***

*You can read Luther’s Large Catechism online at [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org).*

**WELCOME TO ALL** who are worshipping 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.



**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES** are offered offered at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent. Our Wednesday services this year focus on the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion using Luther's Small Catechism. A light supper is served following the Lenten services.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet briefly after worship tonight. Our Organ Task Force meets at 10:25 a.m. on Sunday, March 22.

**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 (March 29). Help make a difference for someone in need by bringing items for the kits.

**A SOUP SUPPER** is being held 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at the Sturgis Community Center. This is a fund-raiser by the Sturgis Kiwanis Club to benefit local children. All you can eat soup, salads and desserts for \$10.

**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.