

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Third Wednesday in Lent

March 4, 2026

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN, “*Baptized into Your Name Most Holy*” LBW Hymn 192

1. Baptized into your name most holy, *Green Book*  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among your seed, your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
I have your Spirit now within.

2. My loving Father, here you take me  
Henceforth to be your child and heir;  
My faithful Savior, here you make me  
The fruit of all your sorrows share;  
O Holy Ghost, you comfort me  
Though threat’ning clouds around I see.

3. O faithful God, you never fail me:  
Your cov’nant surely will abide.  
Let not eternal death assail me  
Should I transgress it on my side!  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.

*Johann Jacob Rambach (1693-1735)*

## 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. This is the Spirit’s entry now:  
The water and the Word,  
The cross of Jesus on your brow,  
The seal both felt and heard.

2. This miracle of life reborn  
Comes from the Lord of breath;  
The perfect man from life was torn;  
Our life comes through his death.

*Thomas E. Herbranson (1933-2009)*

**SCRIPTURE READING, Mark 16:14-16**

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” *(NIV)*

**SCRIPTURE READING, Acts 2:37-39**

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.” *(NIV)*

**SCRIPTURE READING, Galatians 3:27-28**

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *(NIV)*

### **SCRIPTURE READING, Titus 3:4-8a**

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. *(NIV)*

### **SCRIPTURE READING, Romans 6:3-5**

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. *(NIV)*

### **SCRIPTURE READING, Colossians 2:12-14**

When you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death. You were at one time spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were Gentiles without the Law. But God has now brought you to life with Christ. God forgave us all our sins; he canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross. *(GNT)*

### **SCRIPTURE READING, 1 Peter 3:20-21**

God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *(NIV)*

## LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

❏ What benefits does God give in Baptism?

❑ **In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.**

❏ What is God's promise?

❑ **In Mark 16 our Lord Jesus Christ says: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be condemned."**

❏ How can water do such great things?

❑ **It is not the water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit.**

❏ Where is this written?

❑ **St. Paul writes in Titus 3: "He saved us . . . in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."**

*Martin Luther's Small Catechism (1529)*



**HYMN, “All Who Believe and Are Baptized”** **LBW Hymn 194**

1. All who believe and are baptized *Green Book*  
Shall see the Lord’s salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation;  
Through Christ’s redemption they will stand  
Among the glorious heav’ly band  
Of ev’ry tribe and nation.

2. With one accord, O God, we pray,  
Grant us your Holy Spirit;  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus’ blood and merit;  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
By holy Baptism, that we may  
Eternal life inherit.

*Thomas H. Kingo (1634-1703)*

**SERMON**

**Pastor David J. Baer**

**HYMN, “Baptized in Water”** **WOV Hymn 693**

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, *Green Book*  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:  
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
Faithfully now God’s praise we sing.

2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:  
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
Thankfully now God’s praise we sing.

3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:  
Born of the Spirit, we are God’s children;  
Joyfully now God’s praise we sing.

*Michael Saward (1932-2015)*

## CATECHISM PRAYER

**P** What is Baptism?

**C** I thank you, Lord God, for my Baptism which I know is not water only, but is water used together with your Word and by your command to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Amen.

**P** What benefits does God give in Baptism?

**C** How grateful I am, O God, for the benefits you give in Baptism! You forgive sin, you deliver from death and the devil, and you give everlasting salvation to all who believe what you have promised. Lord Jesus, you have said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Having been baptized, let me believe so that I may be saved! Amen.

**P** How can water do such great things?

**C** Lord God, what great things you accomplish through Baptism. Thank you for reminding us that it is not water that does these things, but your Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with this Word it is a life-giving water, which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit, so that we might be justified by your grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. 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.**



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1. Word and water, filled with promise,  
Grant forgiveness, cleanse, reclaim  
In the Father, Son, and Spirit’s  
Holy, precious, saving name.  
Blessings purchased when our Savior  
Paid the awful ransom price —  
All delivered in this washing:  
Peace and paron, paradise.

2. As the water rescued Noah,  
Ark uplifted on the waves,  
So this water, by God’s promise,  
Also rescues, also saves.  
Now by Jesus’ resurrection  
We before our God appear  
Pure and sinless, fully righteous,  
With a conscience crystal clear.

3. Though our vision may not capture  
All that happens at the font,  
Here the Savior keeps his promise —  
Those he shepherds shall not want:  
Ev’ry trace of sin forgiven,  
Guilt completely washed away,  
Faith in Jesus firmly planted;  
See God’s kingdom come today!

4. Let us always, Lord, remember  
That the water and the Word  
Bear your never-failing promise:  
Our salvation is assured.  
Your baptismal benediction  
Ever shower from above —  
All the Spirit’s grace in Jesus,  
And, dear Father, all your love.

# *More from Martin Luther*

Baptism is not our work, but God's. God's works are saving and necessary for salvation, and do not exclude, but demand, faith; for without faith they could not be grasped.

Thus you see plainly that Baptism is not a work which we do, but a treasure which God gives us, and faith grasps; just as the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross is not a work but a treasure comprehended in the Word, and offered to us and received by faith.

Thus we have these three things that must be known about this Sacrament, especially that is God's ordinance and is to be held in all honor. But here we have not only God's commandment and injunction, but also his promise. Therefore, it is still far more glorious than anything else God has commanded and ordained; in short, it is so full of comfort and grace that heaven and earth cannot comprehend it.

In Baptism, therefore, every Christian has enough to learn and to practice all his life. He has always enough to do to believe firmly what it promises and brings — victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, the grace of God, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with his gifts. In short, the blessings of Baptism are so boundless that if timid nature considers them, it might well doubt whether it could be true. Suppose there were a physician who had such skill that people would not die, or even though they died would afterward live forever. Just think how the world would pour in money upon him like snow and rain. Because of the throng of rich people, no one else could get near him. Now, here in Baptism there is brought free of charge to every person's door just such a treasure and medicine which swallows up and keeps all people alive.

Thus we must regard Baptism and put it to use in such a way that we may draw strength and comfort from it when our sins or conscience oppress us, and say: "But I am baptized! And if I am baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body."

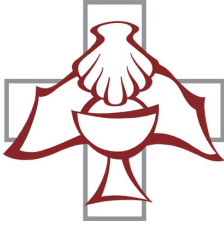
No greater jewel, therefore, can adorn our body and soul than Baptism, for through it we obtain perfect holiness and salvation, which no other kind of life and no work upon earth can acquire.

## *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.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help with serving the light supper following our Wednesday night Lenten services. Hosts may provide the food or the church will provide soup for the suppers. Supper hosts are asked to prepare and serve the light supper following the Lenten service and help clean up afterward.

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

**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](http://thenalc.org/lent).

**DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME** begins this weekend. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday.