FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 30, 2025
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



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Website: lutheranmercedes.com

Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor 956.463.1305 eweber10@aol.com

> Sunday 9:00 A.M. Worship Service

> > 10:30 A.M.

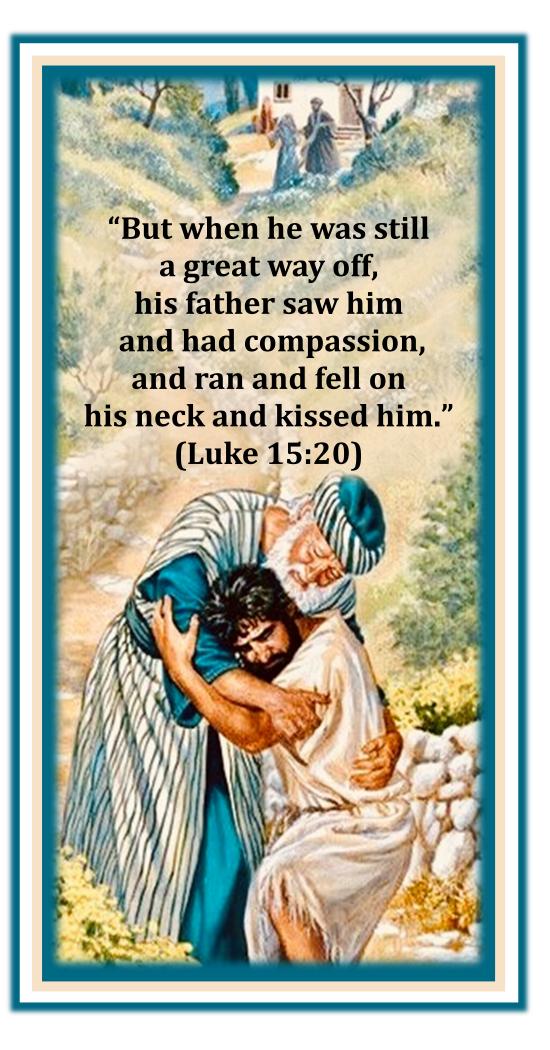
Adult Bible Class/ Sunday School

Holy Communion: Every Sunday

www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/

Website: Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs., M-F 8 am to 12 pm



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10;1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you... this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32). Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17-34.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - I praise You, O God; I acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting, Your adorable, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage. Day by day I magnify You. And I worship Your name forever and ever. O Lord, let Your mercy be upon me, as my trust is in You. O Lord, in You have

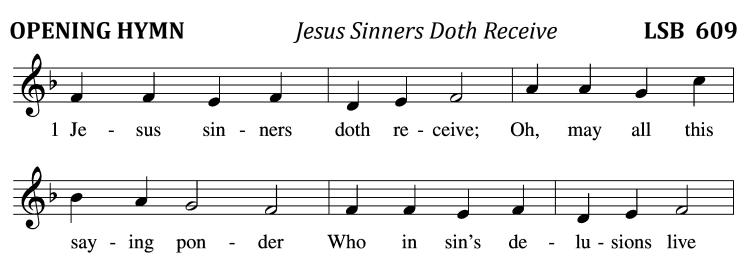
I trusted; let me never be confounded; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin Introit Laetare Jerusalem: "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her" (Isaiah 66:10). Though still in the penitential season of Lent, this Sunday is a relaxation from normal Lenten discipline. Flowers may appear, and ministers may wear rose-colored vestments as a lighter shade of violet. Today's service is inspired by the Old Testament Reading of Isaiah, the First Song of Isaiah: "Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth" (Isaiah 12:5). Today we take that admonition literally as not only the liturgy is sung but also the Readings are expanded with hymn stanzas. "Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 12:6). In the joy of the faithful father in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, the forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with God as His baptized sons and daughters, well, it just makes you want to sing! So we shall!

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE

PAGE 184

PRELUDE (a quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship) **WELCOME**





6 Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted. Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted. Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive. 7 Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven; And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven. Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Please stand

INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C**. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and P confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- Our help is in the name of the Lord, P
- who made heaven and earth. C
- I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, P
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

- O almighty God, merciful Father, P
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and \mathbf{C} iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.
- C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

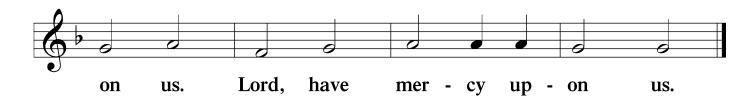
- P Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
- C Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- P For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
- C Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.
- P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.
- C Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.
- P Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

GLORIA PATRI



KYRIE





SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 12:1-6

("The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.")

1 And in that day you will say:

"O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, (Continue on next page)

- Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.
- Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'
- 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
- 4 And in that day you will say:
 - "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted.
- 5 Sing to the Lord, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth.
- 6 Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"
- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11

- P Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
- C Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- P Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- C When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long.
- P For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.
- C I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him.
- C You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

- P I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.
- C Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.
- P Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him.
- C Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

(A new creation)

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

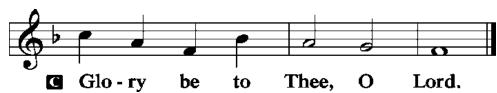
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HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

(The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.



1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

11 "A certain man had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

25 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out

and pleaded with him. 29 So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

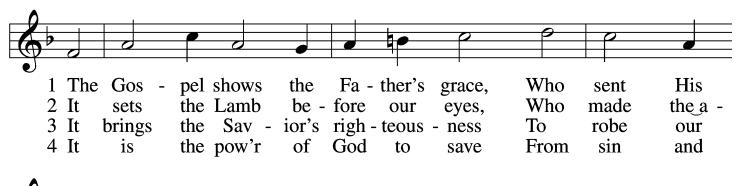
All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

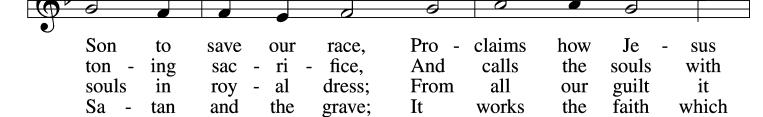
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

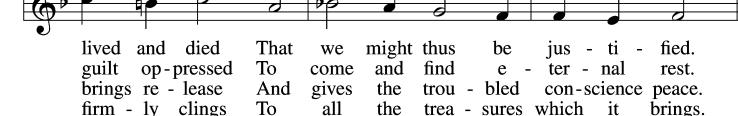
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace







- 5 It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad; The weary, burdened souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.
- 6 May we in faith its message learn
 Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
 May we in faith its truth confess
 And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

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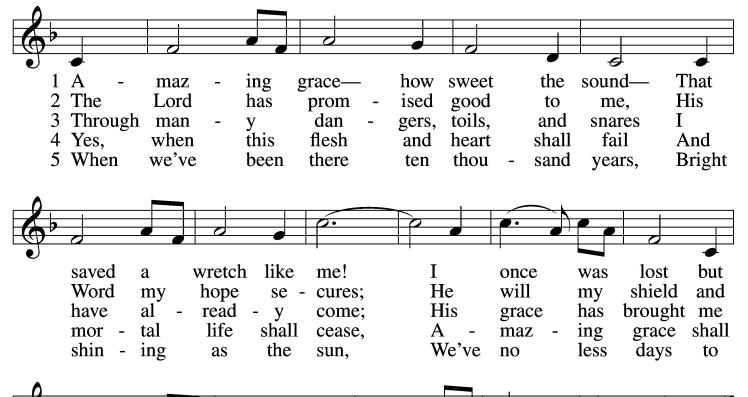
SERMON

"The Great Gospel Surprise"

Luke 15:20

LSB 580

OFFERING



blind found, Was but see! now am now As life por tion be long as en - dures. safe thus far, His grace will lead me home. heav then pre vail In en's joy and peace. God's praise Than when we'd sing first

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SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" [American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
 - You are God; we praise You.
- C You are the Lord; we acclaim You,
- P You are the eternal Father;
- C all creation worships You.
- P To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise.
- C The glorious company of apostles praise You.
- P The noble fellowship of prophets praise You.

- C The white-robed army of martyrs praise You.
- P You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.
- C You became man to set us free,
- P You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
- C You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
- P Lord God, we pray for Your whole church on earth. Grant that Your life-giving, life-sustaining Word be rightly proclaimed and firmly believed, that many may come to repentance and faith and the eternal life of Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For Your whole creation, we praise and glorify You, almighty God. Let Your blessing be upon seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, and all the realm of our life together as a nation. Preserve us, O Lord, in justice and honor that we may live in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all who are in any need, the sick, the hospitalized, the homebound; for the lonely and abandoned; for the oppressed and the afflicted, especially..., come to all with healing, hope, and restoration of freedom and health according to Your good will. Lord, in Your mercy,

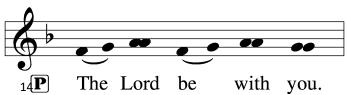
C hear our prayer.

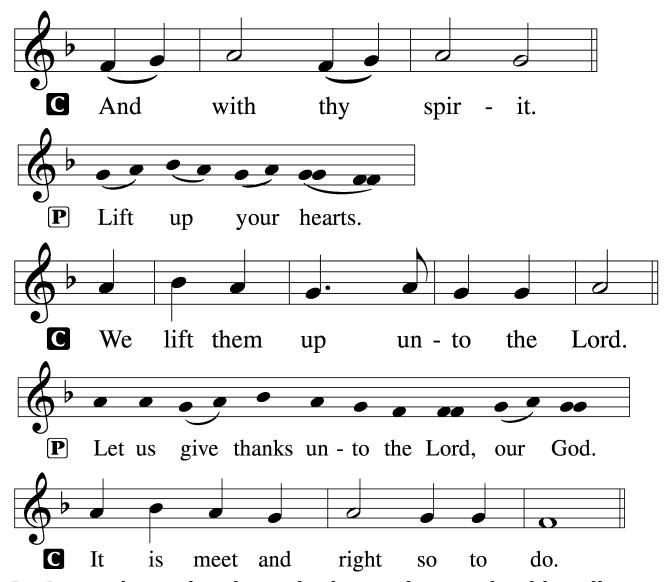
Other intercessions may be added here.

- P Throughout the world the holy church acclaims You:
- C Father, of majesty unbounded;
- P Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship;
- C and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
- P Come, then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood,
- C and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting. Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

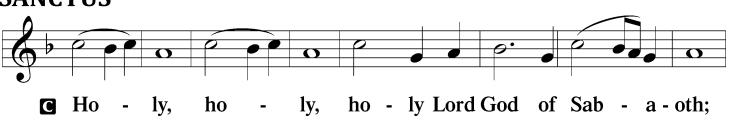
PREFACE

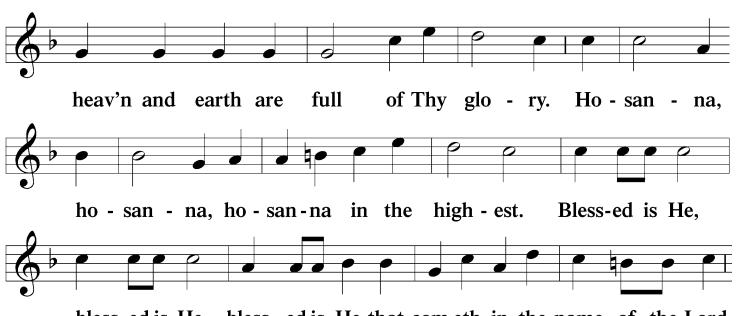




P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in Sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS





bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

C 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.



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

- the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He P had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."





Please sit

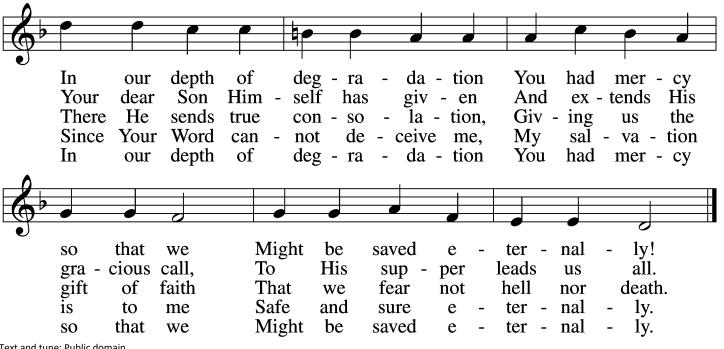
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion LSB 559

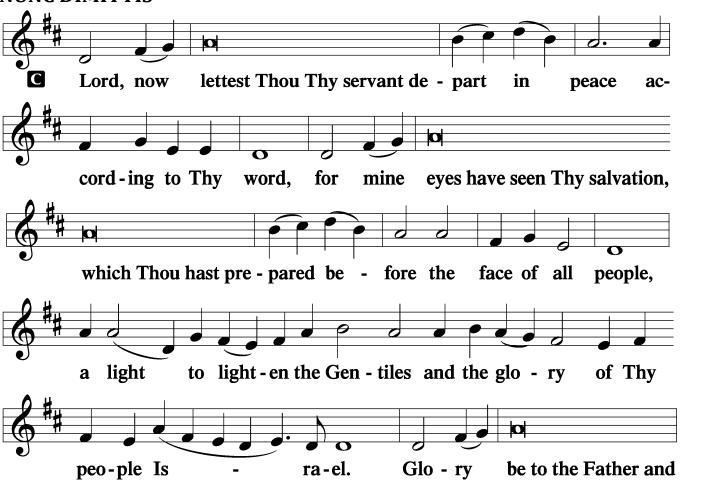


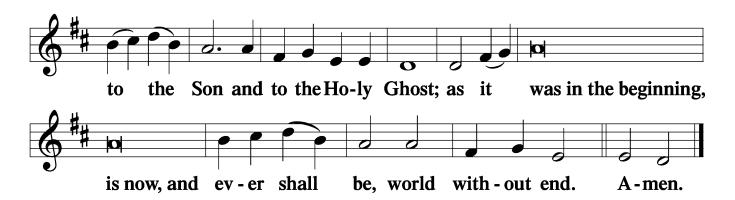


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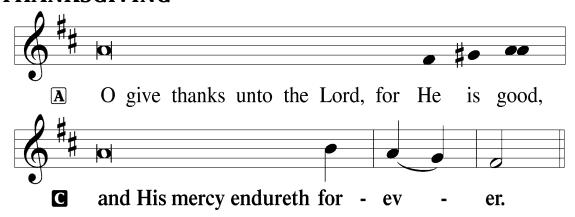
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THANKSGIVING



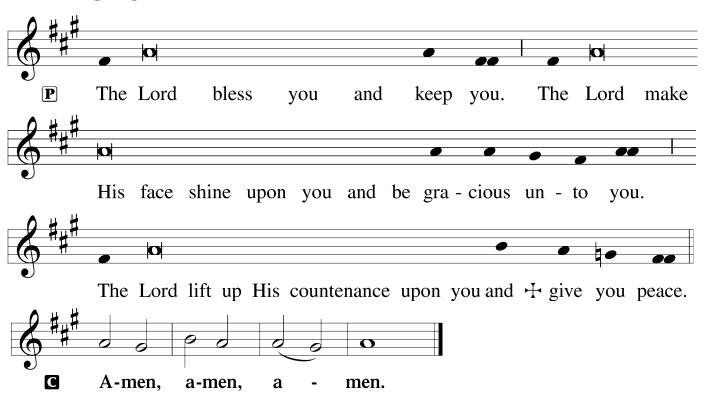
P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth forever. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICAMUS



BENEDICTION



SENDING HYMN

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB 915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.

2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;

4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



What - ev - er How - ev - er great our tres - pass, we have been. Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin. Shall find a an - gels gath - er His bless - ed A - round the heav'n-ly gates. What should we with - out You When heart and do eve run o'er?



Our hearts have turned a - way, How - ev - er long from mer - cy for - got - ten, The past shall he A pres - ent joy ques - tion will be asked How of - ten we have come; us To drive When all things seem a - gainst us, us to de - spair,



Your pre-cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day. fu - ture grace be prom - ised, glo-rious crown Α in heav'n. Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It our Fa - ther's home. is We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace as you serve our heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for April to June 2025 are available in the Narthex or office.

Join us for **Sunday School and Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Goetz is leading the class.

March Activities

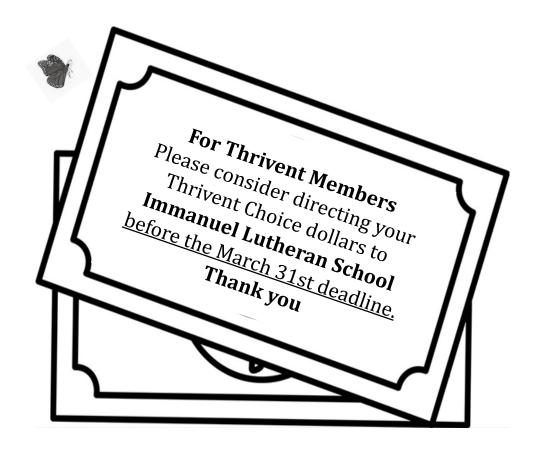
Family Confirmation Class on Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

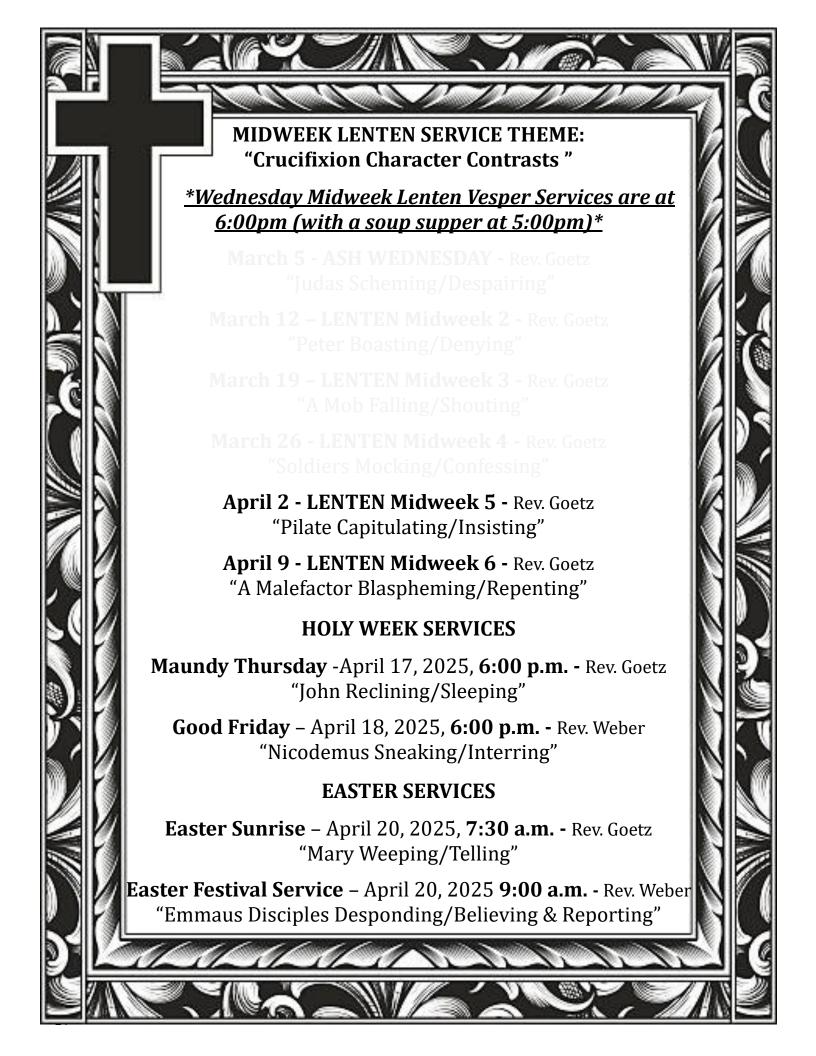
Choir Practice

Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Lenten Mid-week 5

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 5:00 p.m. Soup Supper **6:00 p.m. Service**







Installation of Rev. Edmund Weber

Join us for the installation service
of Pastor Ed Weber
April 6th
3pm

A light reception will be held following the service

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School 703 West 3rd Street Mercedes, Texas 78570 Office: 956.565.1518 Immanuelmercedes@gmail.com www.lutheranmercedes.com

Sermon Notes		
		<u> </u>
		*
		CHARLE
		2



1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Psalm 32:11 NKJV

Mid-Week 3 Service

3/19/2025

Worship Service 48

Plate: \$ 216.00 Envelopes: \$ 420.00

Online

\$ 636.00 Total:

3/23/2025

Sunday Worship ??

Plate: \$.00

\$.00 Envelopes:

Envelopes-Other:

Donation:

To Be Announced Later

Memorial:

\$.00 Total:

\$.00 Bible Class: ??

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:(4b-7) 8-14

Luke 20:9-20

Jesus Christ Has Reconciled Us to the Father

God the Father has opened His heart to us in love. While we were "still a long way off," He saw us and "felt compassion" (Luke 15:20). Therefore, He gave His only begotten Son for us, making "him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1). Because He has become our salvation, our strength and our song, we "will trust, and will not be afraid" (Is. 12:2).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	March Sunday Servants:	April Sunday Servants:	
Elder:	Dan Wehling	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	R Cisneros/M Perez/C Zink	S Wehling/C Zink/M Perez	
Music:	Doris Pickering/JoAnne Schroeder		
This Week	Fourth Sunday in Lent		
Usher:	Don Vogel		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am	
Next Week	Fifth Sunday in Lent		
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am	