

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT**

MARCH 22, 2020

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod**



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**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor**

956.463.1305

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Website:

**lutheranmercedes.
com**

Sunday

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:30 am

**Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

Holy Communion:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510



**Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man
who was blind from birth.**

**And His disciples asked Him, saying,
“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his
parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus
answered,**

**“Neither this man nor his parents
sinned, but that the works of God should
be revealed in him.**

(John 9:1-3)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2020

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.

Next week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Almighty God, our heavenly Father, I remain in darkness without Your light, and I walk in blindness if You do not lead. Even in my times of comfort in the darkness and times of willful blindness, You shine Your light of truth and call me Your child of light that I may see and live in Your grace. Help me to acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for all Your blessings, and with eyes of faith look to You always that I serve You and others 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. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - It's said that darkness is nothing more than the absence of light. Darkness and blindness are words

often used throughout Scripture to describe our sinfulness—the absence of the true Light. In our continued Lenten journey, we prepare our hearts for the dark afternoon of Good Friday at the cross. Yet even in that darkness, Jesus Christ brings the light of life. In our times of spiritual blindness and comfort in the darkness of this world, we gather again today to see His light through our vision of Spirit-given faith, that our eyes may look to Him who is the light of the world—the light no darkness can overcome.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

OPENING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

LSB 895

- 1 Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed

[CONTINUED NEXT PAGE] 3

And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!



All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the
truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and
just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature
sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in
thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and
by what we have left undone. We have not loved You
with our whole heart; we have not loved our
neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your**

present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

P "In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to Become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15*

P My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

C **One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.**

P For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His Tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

C **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.**

P My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

KYRIE

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14-21*

(Amid the unbelief of His people, God will turn darkness to light.)

14 "I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. 15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, and I will dry up the pools. 16 I will bring the blind

by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them. 17 They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, who trust in carved images, who say to the molded images, 'You are our gods.' 18 "Hear, you deaf; and look, you blind, that you may see. 19 Who is blind but My servant, or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is blind as he who is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant? 20 Seeing many things, but you do not observe; opening the ears, but he does not hear." 21 The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 142; antiphon: v. 5*

P I cried out to You, O Lord: I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

C I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

P I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

C When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

P Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.

C I cried out to You, O Lord: I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

P Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

C Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name; the righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me."

P I cried out to You, O Lord: I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:8-14*

(Once in darkness, we are now children of light in the Lord.)

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says:

"Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 9:1-41*

(Jesus heals a man born blind.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You , O Lord.

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who

sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. 7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. 8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" 9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." 10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." 12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." 13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." 18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, say-

ing, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." 22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." 25 He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." 26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! 31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. 32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. 33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to

him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" 36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him. 39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* **LSB 790**

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
 O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
 Let all who hear
 Now to His temple draw near,
 Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
 And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
 Have you not seen
 All that is needful has been
 Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
 Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
 What need or grief
 Ever has failed of relief?
 Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
 Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
 Ponder anew
 What the Almighty can do
 As with His love He befriends you.
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
 Let the Amen
 Sound from His people again;
 Gladly forever adore Him!

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SERMON **“That the Works of God be Revealed in You Also!”**

(John 9:3)

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways, so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life,

and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known, [especially . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of all nations, shine Your light to all places in this world and to the leaders of cities, states, and countries, that Your light guide and direct them so that peace be had and justice faithfully served. Give courage and diligence to all who work to defend liberties and life, and to those who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our congregation, that we remain united in truth, love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of all seasons, in this season of Lent shine Your light upon us as we examine ourselves, see our sins, and know our need for a Savior. As we continue to follow Christ to the cross, draw our hearts and minds to You and the joys that await. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we

pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

All 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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* **LSB 809**

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. **Refrain**

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

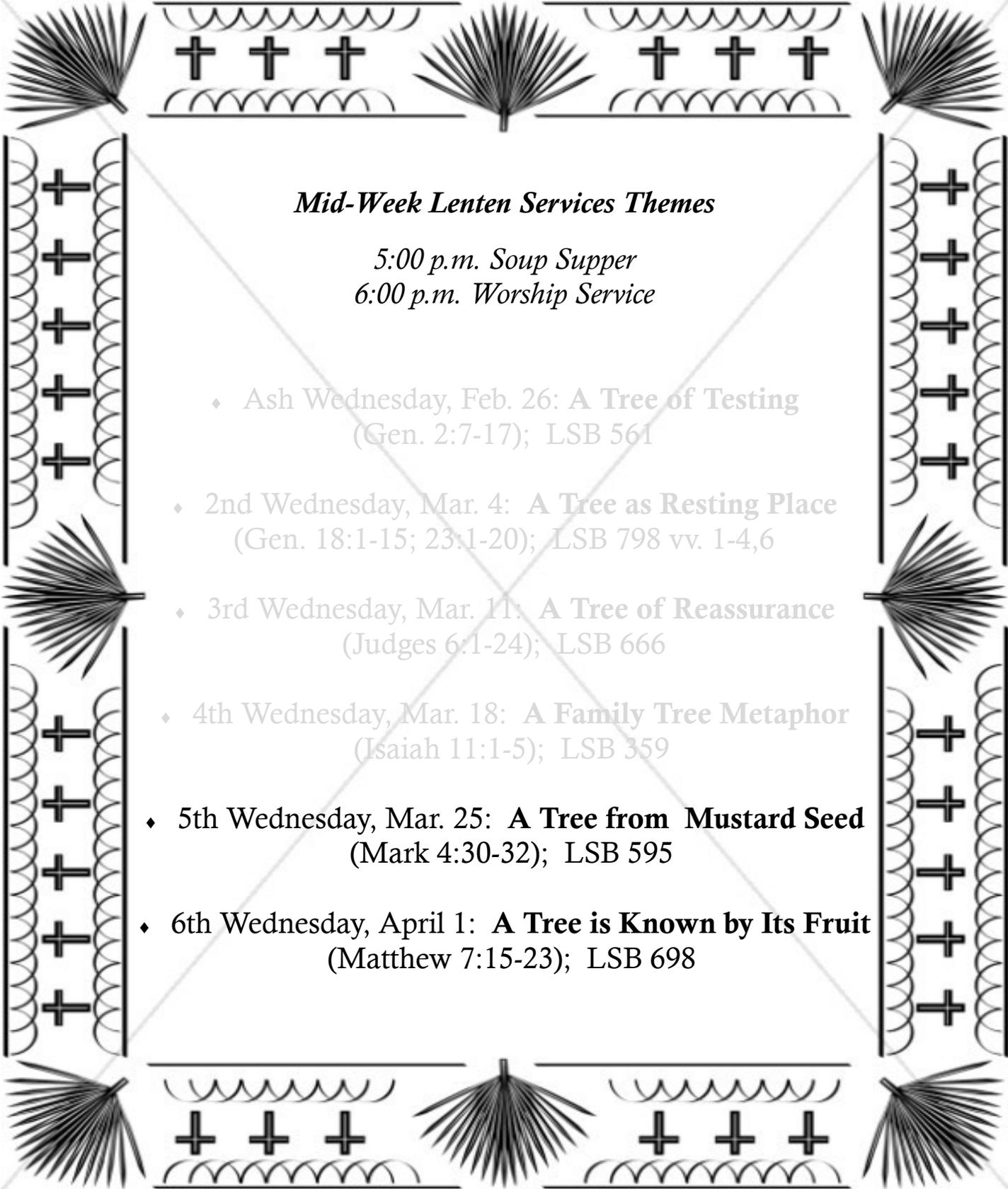
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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

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Mid-Week Lenten Services Themes

5:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. Worship Service

- ◆ Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26: **A Tree of Testing**
(Gen. 2:7-17); LSB 561
- ◆ 2nd Wednesday, Mar. 4: **A Tree as Resting Place**
(Gen. 18:1-15; 23:1-20); LSB 798 vv. 1-4,6
- ◆ 3rd Wednesday, Mar. 11: **A Tree of Reassurance**
(Judges 6:1-24); LSB 666
- ◆ 4th Wednesday, Mar. 18: **A Family Tree Metaphor**
(Isaiah 11:1-5); LSB 359
- ◆ 5th Wednesday, Mar. 25: **A Tree from Mustard Seed**
(Mark 4:30-32); LSB 595
- ◆ 6th Wednesday, April 1: **A Tree is Known by Its Fruit**
(Matthew 7:15-23); LSB 698



Lenten and Easter Services

*Ash Wednesday
February 26th
5:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. Worship Service*

Lenten Services

*Wednesdays, March 4th thru April 1st
5:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. Worship Service*

Holy Week Services

*Sunday, April 5th, Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service
at 9:00 a.m.*

April 9th, Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 10th, Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

Sunday, April 12th

Sunrise Devotion

6:45 a.m.

*on the basketball court (weather permitting)
followed by Breakfast*

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Worship Service

9:00 a.m.



Portals of Prayer for January to March are available in the Narthrex.

Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You have fellowship with one another and also enrich your spiritual life with the Word.

Rev. Goetz is leading the Bible Study.

Youth Confirmation Classes

@ 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, in Pastor's Office

Introducing Our New Safety Coordinator - Gary Mitzel

He will be:

- Recruiting, planning, implementing and overseeing safety at Church services and other Church related functions.
- Monitoring church property during church services from the rear of the sanctuary; walk thru parking areas / halls / parish hall / playground / restrooms.
- Watching for potential medical and health risks / tripping / falling / fainting / fire / natural disasters / man made disasters.

May God bless his service.

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**CANCELLED 'TILL
FURTHER NOTICE**

3/11/2020

Midweek Lenten 4 Worship 42

Plate: \$ 141.00

Envelopes: \$ 305.00

Total: \$ 446.00

LWML Rally

CANCELLED

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Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
March Sunday Servants:	
Elder:	Dan Wehling
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lorri Marchant
Music:	Pastor Weber
This Week	Fourth Sunday in Lent
Usher:	Dan Wehling
Sunday:	Worship Service 9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am
Next Week	Fifth Sunday in Lent
Usher:	Don Vogel
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am

By His Word of the Gospel, Jesus Calls Us Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. “For his righteousness’ sake,” He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns “the darkness before them into light” (Is. 42:16) because He is “the light of the world” (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh “while it is day,” until that night “when no one can work” (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though “at one time you were darkness,” now “you are light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to “awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead” (Eph. 5:14).

3/15/2020		
Sunday Worship	67	
Plate:		\$ 1,074.00
Envelopes:		\$ 1,558.00
Donation:		
Memorial:		
	Total:	\$ 2,632.00
Bible Class:	27	\$ 43.00

Fifth Sunday in Lent Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:1-11

John 11:1-45 (46-53) or

John 11:17-27, 38-53