

**LENTEN MIDWEEK 5
SERVICE**

**MARCH 25, 2020
IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
*Missouri Synod***



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***Sunday*
Worship Service
9:00 AM**

***Adult Bible Class*
Sunday School
10:30 am**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**Website
lutheranmercedes.
com**

**https://
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**Office Hrs, M-F
8:00 am to 12:00 pm
CCLI # 2585510**



LENTEN MIDWEEK 5 SERVICE

MARCH 25, 2020

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors here today. 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.

AS WE GATHER The trees of the Bible help us realize why we need a Savior, how God provided a Savior for us in the person of Jesus Christ, and how the saved lives of repentant believers look. Today we consider how God brings low the haughty and raises up the humble and repentant. Our Lord Jesus is like a sprig from the top of a cedar, “planted” by God (and risen) to become a new, glorious tree. Though those who rely on Him are seemingly insignificant, like a mustard seed, they grow as the Church to give shelter to all people who flock to our Lord and His gracious mercy.

PRELUDE *(A Quiet Time for Prayer and Meditation)*

OPENING HYMN *I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus* **LSB 729**

- 1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.
- 2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

Continue on next page

- 3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.
- 4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.
- 5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.
- 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

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OPENING *Psalm 1:1–3; 96:12–13; Isaiah 61:1, 3*

P Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the LORD.

C He is like a tree planted by streams of water.

P The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has
anointed me to bring good news to the poor; . . .

**C that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the
planting of the LORD.**

P Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD,

C for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1, 3*

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

C Heavenly Father, we confess that we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have “eaten forbidden fruit” in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual fruit in keeping with the new life You have won for us. For the sake of Jesus’ sacrifice on the tree of the cross, grant us Your forgiveness. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let Your face shine, that we may be saved! Amen.

P After His triumph over Satan’s temptations in the wilderness, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth and announced that the prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled in Him. The prophet had written, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me . . . to grant to those who mourn in Zion . . . a beautiful Headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” “Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” (Matthew 9:2)

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

PSALM *Psalm 104:10–18; antiphon: v. 16*

P The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;

C they flow between the hills;

P they give drink to every beast of the field;

C the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

P Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;

C they sing among the branches.

P From Your lofty abode You water the mountains;

C the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your work.

P You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
C **and plants for man to cultivate,**
P that he may bring forth food from the earth
C **and wine to gladden the heart of man,**
P oil to make his face shine
C **and bread to strengthen man's heart.**
P The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
C **the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.**
P In them the birds build their nests;
C **the stork has her home in the fir trees.**
P The high mountains are for the wild goats;
C **the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.**
P The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of
Lebanon that He planted.

FIRST READING *Ezekiel 17*

(God tells the prophet that the Lord will start the nation anew, like taking a sprig from a cedar to plant a new tree.)

1 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, pose a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel, 3 and say, “Thus says the Lord God:

“A great eagle with large wings and long pinions, full of feathers of various colors, came to Lebanon and took from the cedar the highest branch. 4 He cropped off its topmost young twig and carried it to a land of trade; he set it in a city of merchants. 5 Then he took some of the seed of the land and planted it in a fertile field; he placed it by abundant waters and set it like a willow tree. 6 And it grew and became a spreading vine of low stature; its branches turned toward him, but its roots were under it. So it became a vine, brought forth branches, and put forth shoots. 7 “But there was another great eagle with large wings and many feathers; and behold, this vine bent its roots toward him, and stretched its branches toward him, from the

garden terrace where it had been planted, that he might water it.
8 It was planted in good soil by many waters, to bring forth
branches, bear fruit, and become a majestic vine.” ’

9 “Say, ‘Thus says the Lord God:

“Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots, cut off its fruit, and
leave it to wither? All of its spring leaves will wither, and no great
power or many people will be needed to pluck it up by its roots.

10 Behold, it is planted, Will it thrive? Will it not utterly wither
when the east wind touches it? It will wither in the garden
terrace where it grew.” ’ ”

11 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 12 “Say now
to the rebellious house: ‘Do you not know what these things mean?’
Tell them, ‘Indeed the king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and took its
king and princes, and led them with him to Babylon. 13 And he took
the king’s offspring, made a covenant with him, and put him under
oath. He also took away the mighty of the land, 14 that the kingdom
might be brought low and not lift itself up, but that by keeping his
covenant it might stand. 15 But he rebelled against him by sending
his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and many
people. Will he prosper? Will he who does such things escape? Can he
break a covenant and still be delivered? 16 ‘As I live,’ says the
Lord God, ‘surely in the place where the king dwells who made him
king, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke—with
him in the midst of Babylon he shall die. 17 Nor will Pharaoh
with his mighty army and great company do anything in the
war, when they heap up a siege mound and build a wall to cut off
many persons. 18 Since he despised the oath by breaking the
covenant, and in fact gave his hand and still did all these things, he
shall not escape.’ ” 19 Therefore thus says the Lord God: “As I live,
surely My oath which he despised, and My covenant which he broke, I
will recompense on his own head. 20 I will spread My net over him,
and he shall be taken in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon and try
him there for the treason which he committed against Me. 21 All
his fugitives with all his troops shall fall by the sword, and those who

remain shall be scattered to every wind; and you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken.” 22 Thus says the Lord God: “I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. 23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell. 24 And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the Lord, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the Lord, have spoken and have done it.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Mark 4:30–32*

(The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.)

30 Then He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? 31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; 32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY *Isaiah 11:1, 10; 1 Peter 2:24*

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

C Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

P In that day the Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples— of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place shall be glorious.

C Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

C Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Tree of Life

LSB 561

- 1 The tree of life with ev'ry good
In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
Against whose eating God had warned.
- 2 The stillness of that sacred grove
Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile
And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed
Within the world so newly made.
- 3 What mercy God showed to our race,
A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's seed,
The One to fill our greatest need—
For on a tree uplifted high
His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread
To crush the ancient serpent's head!

4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

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SERMON **“A Tree From A Mustard Seed”** (Mark 4:30-32)

HYMN *O Word of God Incarnate* **LSB 523**

1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

2 The Church from You, dear Master,
Received the gift divine;
And still that light is lifted
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands
Still guides, O Christ, to You.

3 O make Your Church, dear Savior,
A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations
Your true light as of old!

O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see You face to face!

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the Church here and around the world, and for people everywhere in their various needs.

For everyone weighed down by their bondage to sin and an inability to stop sinning by thought, word, and deed, let us pray to the Lord.

C **For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, open their ears to hear the Gospel anew; free them to live before You in Your kingdom.**

P For everyone who has fallen prey to society's distorted morality, let us pray to the Lord.

C **For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, surround them with faithful and caring members of the Body of Christ; call them back in repentance and hope.**

P For those who keep the peace at home or are deployed abroad, for those who provide care and guidance in relationships, finances, and health, and for those who respond to natural disasters and crises of various sorts, let us pray to the Lord.

C **For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, accompany them with Your Holy Spirit; protect them from harm, and give them wisdom in all circumstances.**

P For ourselves and the Church around the world as we seek to produce true spiritual fruit, let us pray to the Lord.

C **For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, assure us that we are Your pleasant**

planting; forgive our errors and send us to serve in faithfulness and love.

P These and any other things You would have us ask, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

**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.**

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

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.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments

C **and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The blessing of God Almighty—who created us, forgave all our sins, and strengthens us for service in His kingdom—be upon us now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Children of the Heavenly Father* **LSB 725**

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

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4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
 God His children ne'er forsaketh;
 His the loving purpose solely
 To preserve them pure and holy.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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the Tree of Life