

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT**

MARCH 31, 2019

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes
Texas 78570
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**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor**

**956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com**

**Website:
lutheranmercedes.com**

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

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

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

**www.facebook.com/
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**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

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

EXTRAVAGANT LOVE FOR THE PRODIGAL SON



"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. (Luke 15:20)

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 31, 2019**

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 the 3x5 white cards located in the pew racks in front of you.

This 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, my heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. Though I deserve only punishment, You receive me as Your child and provide for all my needs of body and soul. Grant that I may acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and share Your love with all those who, like me, are lost and hopeless without You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that's why we call it the present." This short statement speaks volumes about our new life in Christ. Yesterday is history—in Christ, all our sins have been paid for, forgiven, and cast away as far as the east is from the west. Tomorrow is a mystery—not only do we not know the day or hour of Christ's glorious return, but we also have no guarantees about what will happen in our lives mere moments from now. Today is a gift—the present time is indeed a gift, a present, from our gracious Father. He mercifully comes running to His prodigal children and embraces us in His arms. His love picks us up and places us into the nail-scarred hands of His Son, Jesus Christ, who puts to death our old lives, which were once lived without Him, and freely gives to us our new lives, which are now fully lived in and through Him.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB 686

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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C **Amen.**

INTROIT *Psalm 51:2-6; antiphon: v. 1*

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

P For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C **Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

ALL **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

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. 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 daily receive Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and live as those You have made new; 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 12:1-6*

(The Lord God has become my salvation.)

1 And in that day you will say:

“O Lord, I will praise You;
Though You were angry with me,
Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.

2 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*

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as
4 by the heat of summer.**

P I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;
C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
P Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach Him.
C **You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
P I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
C **Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.**
P Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
C **Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**
ALL **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(In Christ, the old has passed away, and the new has come.)

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.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

(The father embraces his prodigal son.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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 Then He said: "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.

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

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 *As Rebels, Lord, We Foolishly Have Wandered* **LSB 612**

SERMON *"God's Unbridled, Prodigal Love for the Lost Sinner"* (Luke 15:20)

OFFERTORY *Create in Me* **LSB 956**

OFFERING

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Psalm 32:7*

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the blessing of all creation, that our loving and creating Father would preserve and defend all that He has made, working all things together for the good of those who love Him, especially working in the hearts and minds of those who have wandered from His house, that through repentance and faith sinners turn to Him and take refuge in His fatherly care, let us pray to the Lord.

C You are a hiding place for me!

P For the blessing of the Church of Jesus, that our gracious Savior guide the hearts, minds, and ministries of all who love Him and seek to make His Gospel known, that we would be defended from our adversaries, strengthened in our discipleship, and emboldened in our witness to a lost and dying world, let us pray to the Lord.

C You preserve me from trouble!

P For those who struggle in heart, body, mind, and relationship, that healing would come to those for whom we pray, [including . . .], that the Holy Spirit would bind up the brokenhearted, mend the hurting, heal the sick, strengthen the weak, and grant perfect peace to all who belong to Him, let us pray to the Lord.

C You surround me with shouts of deliverance!

P For these and all other prayers we bring before the Father's throne of grace, that through the intercession of His perfect Son and in the company of the eternal Spirit, we take confidence in knowing that our prayers are heard and answered by Him who knows all things and directs all things according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

C You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

P We pray all these things in the precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Father of all and restorer of the broken, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.
We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat His body, drink His blood, and be filled with the new life that comes by grace through faith alone. Amen

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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

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."
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He 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."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563



NUNC DIMITTIS



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. 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. Enable us by Your Holy Spirit to be strengthened and renewed in the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation that we have here received. Help us to leave our past behind, and guide us forward each day by grace until that day we behold You face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LSB 528

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Elders Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2019
7:30 p.m.



Due Date: Today, March 31, 2019
 Please consider directing your dollars
 to Immanuel Lutheran School.
 Call: 800-847-4836
 or
 log on to **Thrivent.com**
 and logon to My Thrivent.

Save the Dates

1. The annual **Basketsful Walk-A-Thon** will take place on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Civic Center.
2. **Rodeo Bible Camp** April 6, 2019, Livestock Show Fairgrounds, Mercedes, TX
 Payne Auto Group Arena, 3rd Grade-High School, 2 PM-7 PM, **FREE**
3. **LWML Spring Rally**, Sunday, April 7, 2019, St. John Lutheran, San Benito, TX
 All ladies invited (Pastors Welcome Too!) Come See What LWML is All About!
 Spaghetti Supper to be Served
 2:30 Registration in the Church
 3 PM Event Begins
 Guest Speaker, TX District LWML President, Debbie Curry

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18th	Maundy Thursday Service	6:00 p.m.
April 19th	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
April 21st	Easter Sunrise Devotion	7:00 a.m.
April 21st	Easter Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
April 21st	Easter Service	9:00 a.m.
April 26th	Game Night	5:00 p.m.



From Pastor's Desk

Sundays in Lent Themes

March 10, 2019

"God's Unconditional, Unswerving Love and Truth Defeat the Devil's Conditional Lies" (Luke 4:6).

March 17, 2019

"Jesus' Unrelenting Love for All Sinners! How Deep, How Broad, How High! " (Luke 13:34)

March 24, 2019

"Jesus' Unwavering Love to the Loveless so That None Would Perish" (Luke 13:5)

March 31, 2019

"God's Unbridled, Prodigal Love for the Lost Sinner" (Luke 15:20)

April 7, 2019

"The Father's Unsparing Love for All Mankind" (Luke 20:13)

April 14, 2019

"Jesus' Uncomplaining Love in Betrayal O Wondrous Love What Have You Done! " (Luke 22:27)

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	<i>March Sunday Servants:</i>	<i>April Servants:</i>
Elder:	Dan Wehling	Ken Eilers
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lorri Marchant	B.J. Neuhaus & M. Perez
Music:	Bonny Winston	
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:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am

LENTEN *Schedule*

Wednesdays, starting at 5 p.m. with a Soup Supper followed by
Lenten Worship Service at 6:00 p.m.

2019 Lenten Service Series: A LENT TO REMEMBER

LENTEN MIDWEEK 1 March 6th **ASH WEDNESDAY**
A Lent to Remember: **Remember Dust**

LENTEN MIDWEEK 2 March 13th
A Lent to Remember: **Remember Wondrous Works**

LENTEN MIDWEEK 3 March 20th
A Lent to Remember: **Remember Jesus' Words**

LENTEN MIDWEEK 4 March 27th
A Lent to Remember: **Remember the Covenant**

LENTEN MIDWEEK 5 April 3rd Guest Pastor: Rev. Goetz
A Lent to Remember: Remember Sins No More

LENTEN MIDWEEK 6 April 10th
A Lent to Remember: **Remember Steadfast Love**

Maunder Thursday April 18th **Holy Communion**
Remembrance of Me

Good Friday April 19th
Remember Me



*You are joyously invited to attend
the Installation Service of
Rev. Christopher D. Richardson
Today, Sunday, March 31st, 2019
at 4:30 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
San Benito, TX*

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).

3/24/2019

Sunday Worship	54	
Plate:		\$ 275.00
Envelopes:		\$ 1,228.00
Donation:		
Genesis PC		\$ 500.00
Total:		\$ 2,003.00

3/20/2019 Mid Week 3 Lenten Service: 30

Plate:		\$ 95.00
Envelopes:		\$ 95.00
Total:		\$ 190.00

Bible Class: 28 \$ 34.00

Fifth Sunday in Lent *Readings:*

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

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

Luke 20:9-20

Special Announcement

Shirley Vogel, the nurse at Early College Academy, has a student with an inoperable brain tumor. He started chemo Monday and after several chemos here in the valley, he will be going to Houston for final chemo. If you would like to donate towards his medical expenses, please make a check payable to Immanuel and on the Memo write in Daniel Rodríguez Medical Expenses.

Thank you and God's blessings be with you!