THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 23, 2025
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



703 W 3RD Street Mercedes, TX 78570 956.565.1518 Immanuelmercedes @gmail.com

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

"Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down." (Luke 13:8-9)

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 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 - O God, You have made me Your own possession by my Baptism into Christ, and You daily feed me with Your mercy and grace by Your Word. Help me, I pray, in the face of all trials and temptations, to grow stronger in my faith in You and my love for one another; 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 - A main emphasis of our Lenten discipline is our struggle against temptations to sin and toward true repentance that leads to living faithful Christian lives. As our physical well-being depends in part on healthy choices of diet, in today's Readings God uses the metaphor of eating and drinking to warn and encourage His people to avoid the temptations of the world and our own sin that leads us away from God and to rely constantly on the forgiveness and faith that God provides to enable us to lead godly lives. In the Epistle, Paul has in mind how God provides for us in His Word and Sacraments. We are to remember not only that we were baptized but that we are baptized, meaning God still provides us with saving, bold faith that relies on His mercy and grace because we belong to Him now. The center of the Divine Service is the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, through which we are given forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—all the benefits won for us by the cross and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. Today we are encouraged to receive and rely on God's gifts and provision constantly, that we may maintain a healthy and strong faith in the face of all adversities and challenges.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE

PAGE 184

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

OPENING HYMN

With the Lord Begin Your Task

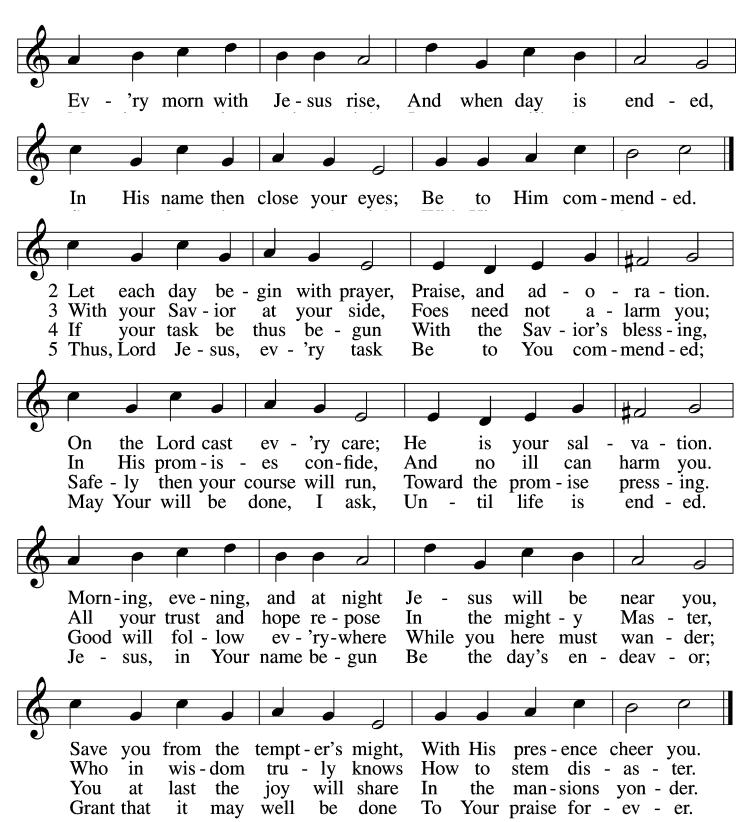
LSB 869



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; will Je sus di - rect it.



For aid and coun - sel ask; Je sus will per - fect it.



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Please stand

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
 (Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and 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.

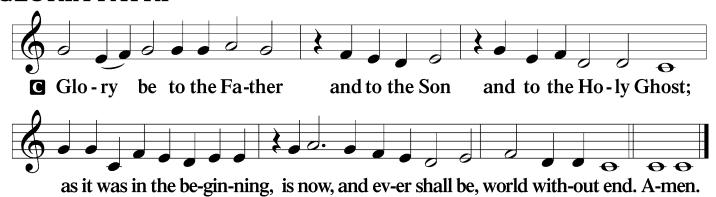
+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6

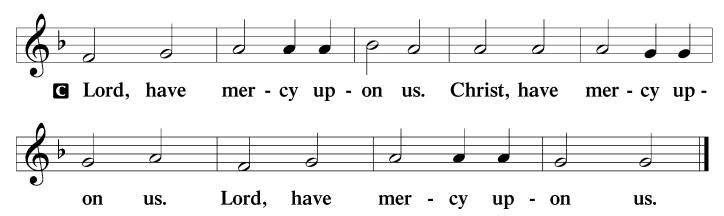
- P For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.
- C For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You.
- P The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.
- C You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

- P But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.
- C Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make Your way straight before my face.
- P For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

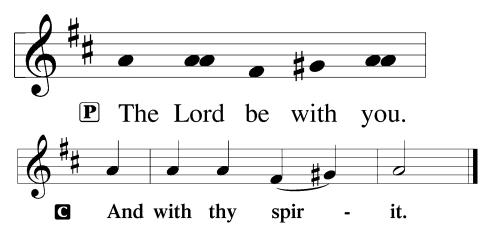
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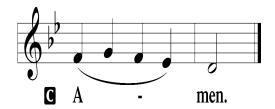
SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY





P Let us pray.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

Ezekiel 33:7-20

(Ezekiel is Israel's watchman.)

7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

10 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?" '11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

12 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the children of your people:

'The righteousness of the righteous man shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall because of it in the day that he turns from his wickedness; nor shall the righteous be able to live because of his righteousness in the day that he sins.' 13 When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die. 14 Again, when I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, 15 if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 16 None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

17 "Yet the children of your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' But it is their way which is not fair! 18 When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die because of it. 19 But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it. 20 Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways."

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

PSALM *Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 8*

- P I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
- C Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
- P You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.
- C You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.
- P Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease.

- C Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
- Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? P
- Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation. \mathbf{C}
- I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to P His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
- Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory \mathbf{C} may dwell in our land.
- Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have P kissed.
- Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look \mathbf{C} down from heaven.
- P Yes, the Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase.
- \mathbf{C} Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.
- I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to P His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 (Warning against idolatry)

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were

destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

(Repent or perish)

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

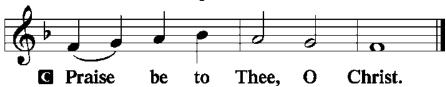


1 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

6 He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' 8 But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 9 And if it bears fruit, well. But if

not, after that you can cut it down."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



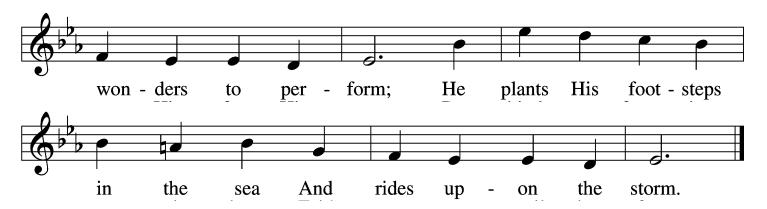
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All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

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.





- Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
 But trust Him for His grace;
 Behind a frowning providence
 Faith sees a smiling face.
- His purposes will ripen fast,
 Unfolding ev'ry hour;
 The bud may have a bitter taste,
 But sweet will be the flow'r.
- 4 Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.
- 5 You fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds you so much dread Are big with mercy and will break In blessings on your head.

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SERMON

"The life of repentance in Christ"

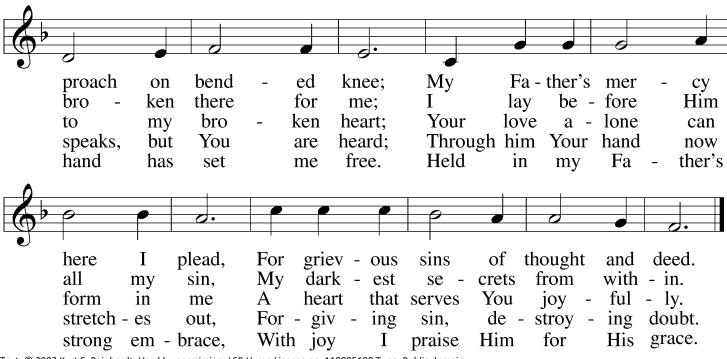
Luke 13:2-3

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY Baptismal Waters Cover Me LSB 616 1 Bap - tis - mal As wa ters cov er me ap -His look to Christ the tree, bod up on - y 3 Lord, may Your wound ed Your heal - ing hand im - part

4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



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

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all P people according to their needs. For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in our eating and drinking we receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably (Continue on next page) 13 and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

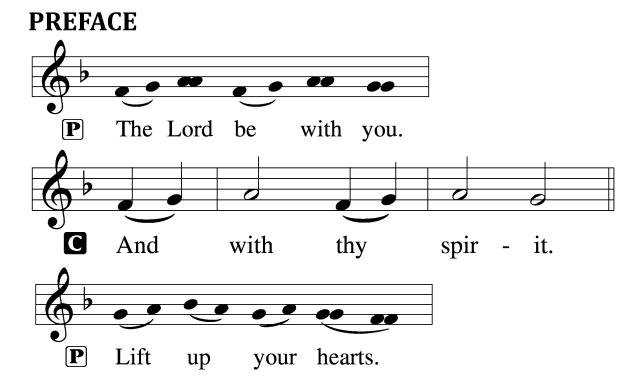
P For those who are sick, [especially . . . and], all who are injured or suffer in body or soul, that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and trust, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

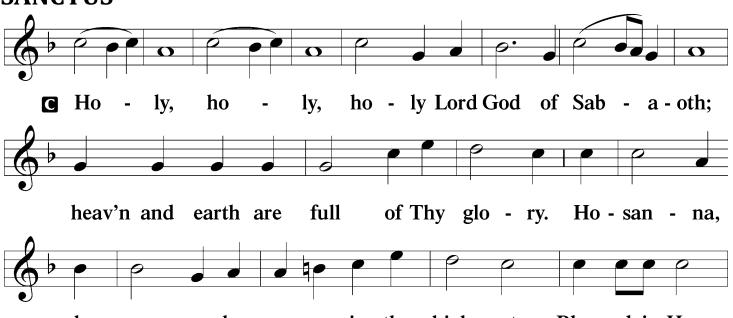
+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +





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:





ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



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."
- 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."



Please sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

world, grant us Thy

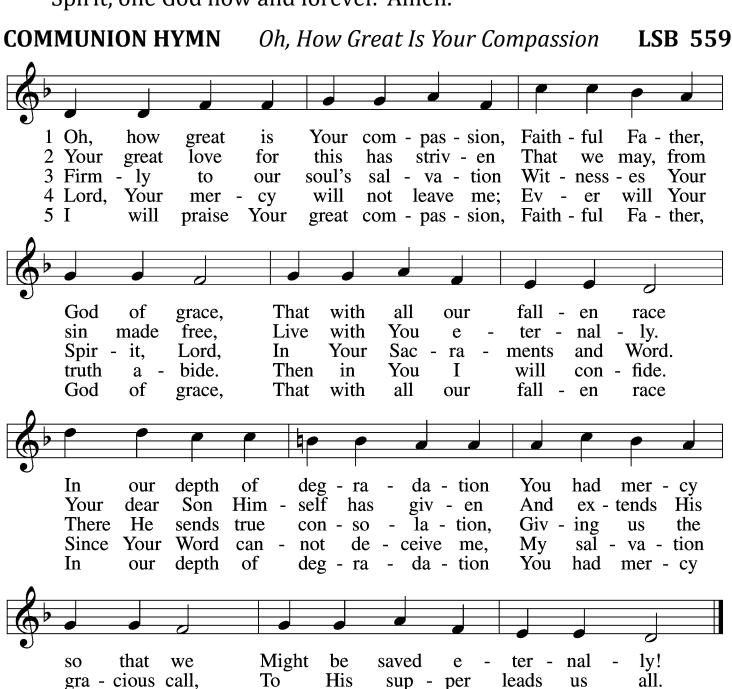
Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy

Α

peace.

men.

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.



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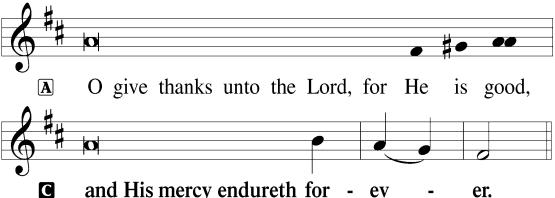
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NUNC DIMITTIS



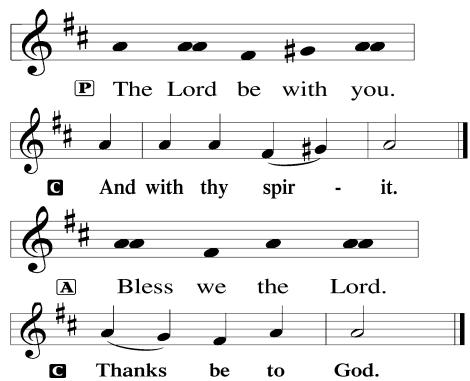
THANKSGIVING



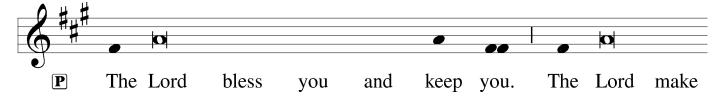
and His mercy endureth for C ev P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth forever. Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the Holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

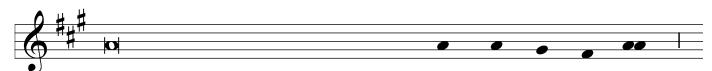


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BENEDICTION





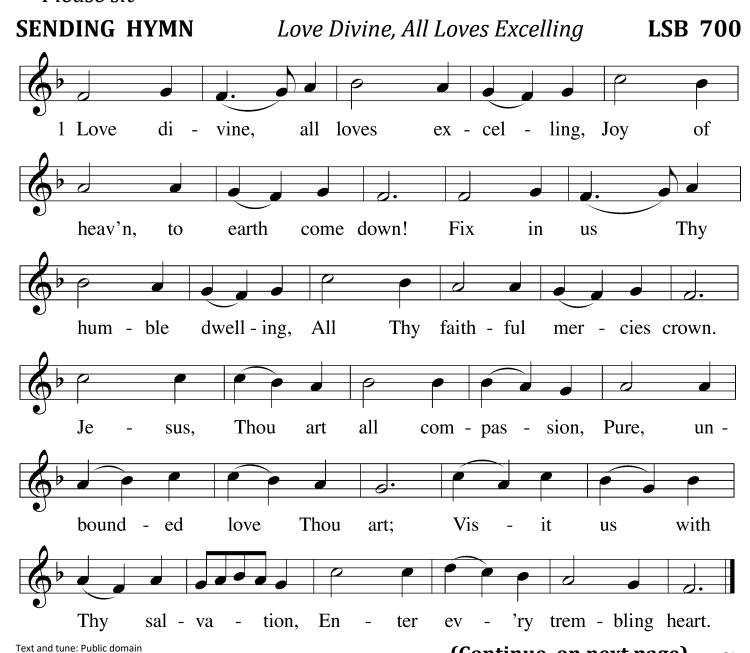
His face shine upon you and be gra-cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



Please sit



- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
 Let us all in Thee inherit;
 Let us find Thy promised rest.
 Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
 End of faith, as its beginning,
 Set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
 Let us all Thy life receive;
 Suddenly return, and never,
 Nevermore Thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing,
 Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
 Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
 Glory in Thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then Thy new creation,
 Pure and spotless let us be;
 Let us see Thy great salvation
 Perfectly restored in Thee,
 Changed from glory into glory,
 Till in heav'n we take our place,
 Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
 Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: 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

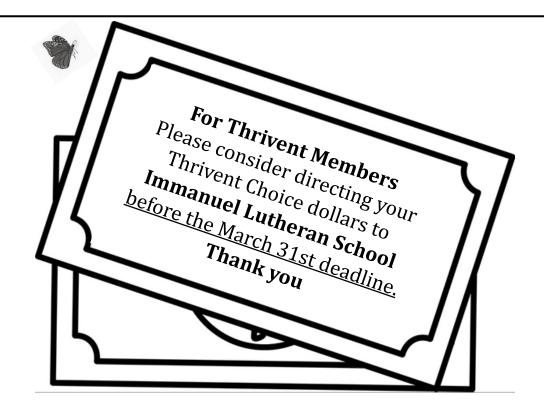
Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

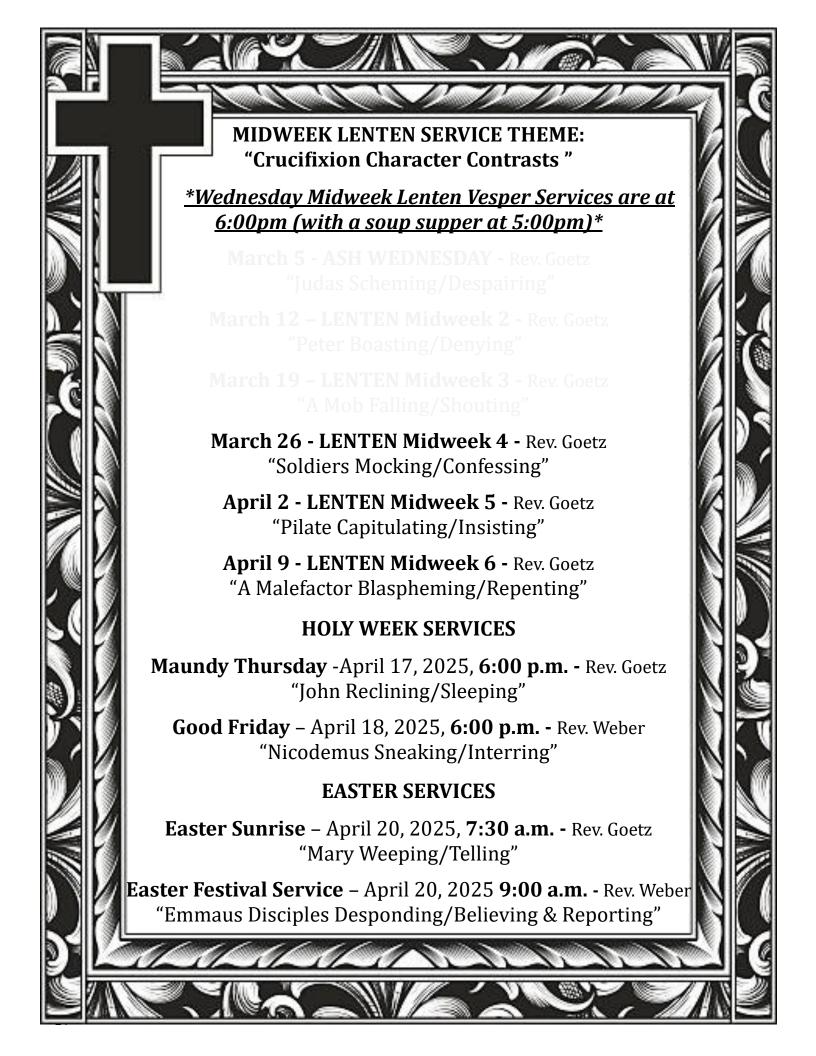
Lenten Mid-week 4

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 5:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. Service

Men's Steak Night/Bible Study

Tuesday, March 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (Sign-up sheet posted on Church door.)







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 John 3:16

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Psalm 85:8 NKJV

Mid-Week 2 Service

3/12/2025

Worship Service 44

Plate: \$ 259.00 Envelopes: \$ 115.00

Online

Total: \$ 374.00

3/16/2025

Sunday Worship 66

Plate: \$ 2,716.00

Envelopes: \$ 2,993.00

Envelopes-Other:

Donation:

Microphones \$ 900.00

Baseball Field Rent \$ 75.00

Memorial:

Total: \$ 6,684.00

Bible Class: **24** \$ 65.00

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 12:1-6

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Jesus Calls You to Repentance

"Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5). By this warning, the Lord would turn us away from wickedness and bring us to life in Himself. For He is patient with us, that we would not be cut down in our sin but live and bear fruit in Him. As He lives, the Lord has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezek. 33:11). So the Scriptures have been "written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come" (1 Cor. 10:11), that we should not desire evil but trust in Christ. He alone is faithful, the Rock who feeds us with His "spiritual food" and pours out His "spiritual drink" (1 Cor. 10:3–4).

	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	Third Sunday in Lent		
Usher:	Dan Wehling		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am	
Next Week	Fourth Sunday in Lent		
Usher:	Don Vogel		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am	