

FOURTH SUNDAY IN
LENT



March 19, 2023

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Norwood, PA ~ Phone: 610.586.5860

www.immanuelnorwood.org

The People of Immanuel are Ministers of the Church
The Rev Scott R. Lee, Pastor
Kathleen Schneider, Director of Music

Please pick up your communion card and Fellowship cup on the way into the Sanctuary for Holy Communion.

PRELUDE Liszt “Abschied” and Schumann “Adieu”
(Prayerful time for reflection.)

^MISSION STATEMENT:

C: We of Immanuel are claimed, gathered, and sent by God to live Christ’s example through worship, education, and service.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. (Kneeling as able.)

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✝ forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power. **Amen.**

^OPENING HYMN

O Christ the Same



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

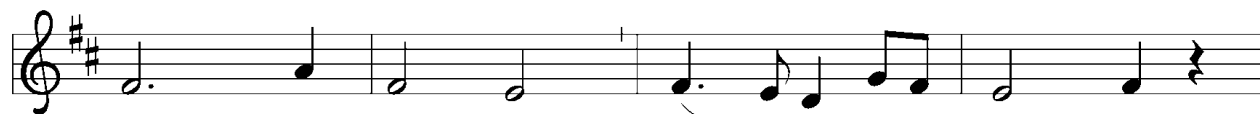
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

^KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

^PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 23 (*Read responsively*)

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall
fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th Chapter

C: **Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may

become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pr. Scott Lee

^HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

^APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Kneeling as able.*)

Response: "Receive our prayer."

^PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace.

OFFERING

We join other Christians in joyfully responding to God's goodness, through your personal giving. The ushers will pass the offering plates during this time. For those who don't feel comfortable passing the plates during Covid, we ask that you place your offering in the plates located at

the front of the nave prior to the service, or after the service, in the plate on the table as you exit into the Hospitality area. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their supportive giving.

^OFFERTORY HYMN “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
 brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
 and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

+HOLY COMMUNION+

^GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *In the night he was betrayed.....*

^LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C: Amen

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of **Holy Communion**. Please pick up your communion card and “Fellowship Cup”, an all-in-one wafer and juice set (the bread and wine) when entering the sanctuary. The pastor says “The Body of Christ given for you.” and the assistant minister says, “The Blood of Christ shed for you.” Open the top protective film to uncover the “body” (an unleavened wafer), place in your mouth then open the 2nd protective film to uncover the “blood” (100% grape juice) and drink. Please dispose of your cup in the receptacle provided when leaving the sanctuary. Sign the communion card and place it in the offering plate.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
 hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✝ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

^HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

^DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.



As a **Reconciling in Christ congregation**, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood, commits to celebrating the love of God with ALL people as we are all made in God's image. Whatever your abilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, race, culture, faith tradition or economic circumstance; whatever your past or present – you are welcome to share in God's love and our community.



ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

SUNDAY	Education Hour	10:00 AM
	LifeSkills Training	12:00 PM
	Council Mtg.	12:00 PM
TUESDAY	Bible Study (<i>Via Zoom-see website</i>)	7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY	Lenten Service (<i>Holy Spirit, Secane</i>)	7:00 PM

Feb. Income - \$6,989

(includes Building rental income multi-month payments)

Feb. Expenses - \$9,940



Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity.

We have 3 easy & virtual ways for people to donate to IMMANUEL. You will see on our Website and on our Facebook page "links" which you can click and make a secure donation. And here is a **QR code** which you can scan with your smart phone. Thank You for your continued generous support!



Come and listen! Listen to the sights and sounds of Lent! This year Kathleen is leaning into this season of quiet and contemplation and has brought forth treasured music. **Please join us prior to service to listen to a beautiful selection of Lenten music we typically don't hear.**

Every **Easter flowers** brighten the altar, contributing to our Easter celebration. This year we are doing something different, **Tulips and Hyacinths!** The flowers are \$7.00 per plant. If you would like to place an order, please complete the holiday flower envelope found in the pews, enclose your money, and place in the offering plate **through Sunday March 26th**.



Bring your family and have breakfast with your Immanuel family!



Easter Morning Breakfast Sunday April 9, 2023, 9:00 AM
Scrambled Eggs ~ Linked Sausage ~ Pancakes ~
Fellowship

Bring a dessert!! See sign-up sheet in hospitality area. Please contact Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus with any questions.

Come help Immanuel get ready for Palm Sunday and Easter on **Church Clean-Up Day, Sat. April 1st at 10:00am.** Bring buckets and rags if you have them, cleaning solutions will be provided. Let's wash the remnants of a brutal winter away together and make way for a joyous Easter Celebration!!



Immanuel Easter Egg Hunt ~ Immanuel is holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, 2023. Children up to ten years of age are invited. Egg hunting begins promptly at 11:00 am, so **plan to arrive no later than 10:45.** Bring your own basket or bag for the eggs! The Egg Hunt happens rain or shine, as the hunt will be moved indoors in case of bad weather. Gather on the lawn at the Chester Pike entrance or go to the social hall down the stairs from the entrance. After the hunt, a light lunch will be served to the children.



Lenten Service Schedule: This year Immanuel - Norwood; St. Matthew - Woodlyn; Holy Trinity - Wallingford; St. Timothy - Aston; and Holy Spirit - Secane; will be working together. This year's theme is **“The Sights and Sounds of Lent”**.

7:00 pm: Worship with fellowship and snacks to follow.

Offerings: Lutheran Disaster Relief – Turkey Earthquake

DATE	Location	Preaching
Mar. 22nd	Holy Spirit, Secane	Pr. Jenn Casey
Mar. 29th	St. Matthew, Woodlyn Communion	Pr. Marie Sager



HOLY WEEK

DATE	Location	TIME
Apr. 6th	Maundy Thursday Norwood United Methodist Church	Worship ~ 7:00 PM
Apr. 7th	Good Friday Prospect Hill Baptist Church	Worship ~ 7:00 PM
Apr. 8 th	Easter Egg Hunt – Rain or Shine Immanuel Lutheran	11:00 AM
Apr. 9th	Easter Sunday Breakfast & Fellowship Immanuel Lutheran	9:00 AM Worship ~ 11:00 AM

Acme/ShopRite Gift Cards! They are used like cash at any of the area stores. There is no extra charge for the certificates. **Our church receives 5% of the value of the coupons that you use. Help us help our church!** See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for details.

ACME



We Want Your Stories! A focus for this year is storytelling. Jesus loved to tell stories. Sharing our stories of faith is an expectation of God. How have you noticed God at work in your life, in small or big ways? There will be many ways to share your story so there will be one that is comfortable for you. *The key is taking that first step to say “I have a story”!* Just let Pastor (or Joyce Morrison, Colleen Kelly, Jean Crane, Piee Fagan, or Karl McClellan from the Outreach Committee) know that you have a story. You will be helped to find a way to share your story!

Immanuel’s Heating Oil Special Giving Campaign Continues!

Our sincere “Thank you” to everyone who has been using our “OIL” envelopes to give extra! They are found on the BRIGHT GREEN display in the Hospitality area (just write your envelope number on it). If you have not already joined the effort you can start at any time! Thank you from your Resource Committee and your Church Council

Save the Date!! Ascension Day Service Thursday evening, May 18, 2023! Our Delaware Conference invites all 20 of our Congregations to our annual Ascension Day Communion Service, starting at 7PM with gathering and refreshments at 6PM. It will be In Person at St. Tim’s in Aston and available virtually too. The hosting church will be announced shortly. There will be an opportunity to sing in a combined choir that evening....details to follow! All are Welcome! Any questions or suggestions please see Karl McClellan, Chairperson for the Delaware Conference Executive Committee.

Pantry Donations to Celebrate Easter! The Little Free Pantry is always active. We have neighbors of the church stop by frequently to pick up non-perishable food or to add to the donations in the Pantry. To celebrate the resurrection, **please bring a food donation with you on Easter Sunday!** Protein items (cans or pouches of meat or fish; peanut butter, tomato sauces, boxes of mac and cheese) are really important. Thanks again for your support.