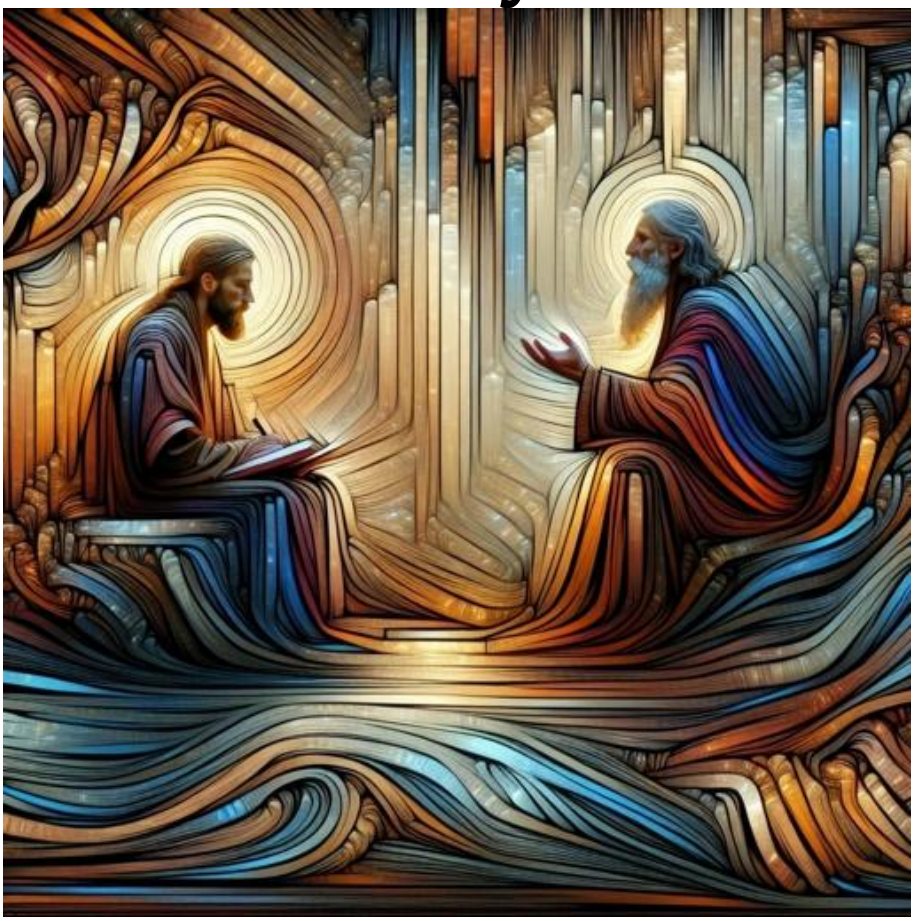
2nd Sunday of Lent



March 1, 2026

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

PRELUDE *(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 forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

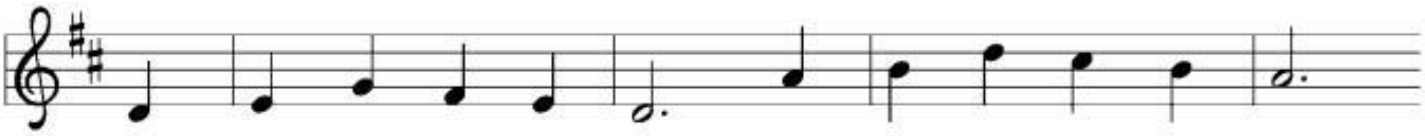
For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

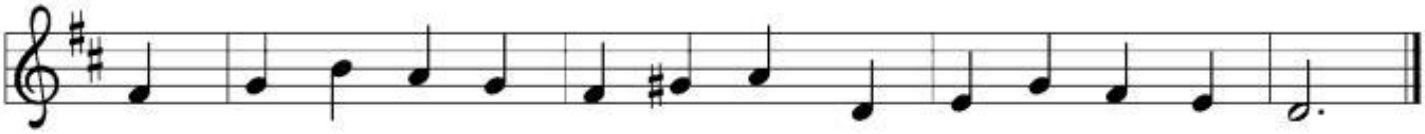
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

^OPENING HYMN

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



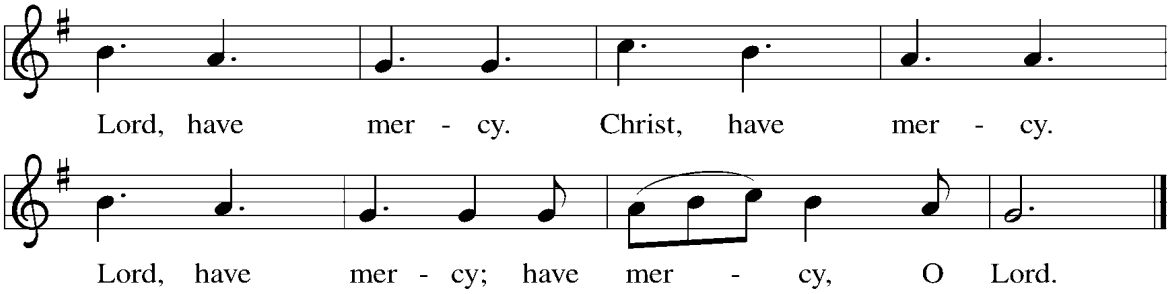
1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



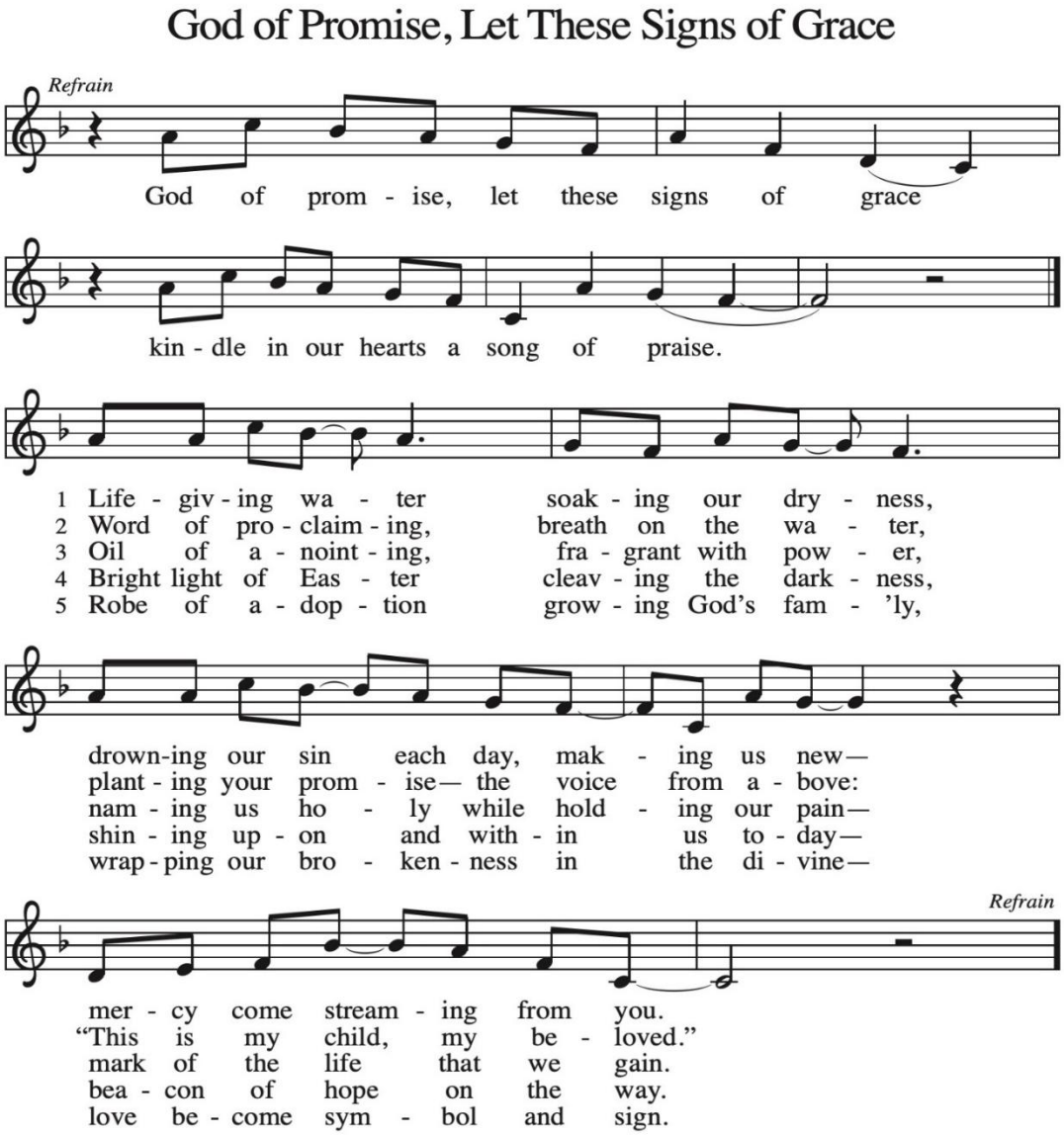
your face and gar-ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor-rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes-sen-gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re-demp-tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

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



^HYMN OF PRAISE *(Verses 1&2)*



P: The Lord be with you
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray

^PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING **Genesis 12:1-4a**

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

1 The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and
your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a
great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you
will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who
curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be
blessed."
4a So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

PSALM Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
2 **My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**
3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
4 **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**
5 the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand**;**
6 **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
7 The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
8 **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore**
9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill; for the LORD our God is the Holy One

SECOND READING Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

1 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according
to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to
boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the scripture say?
"Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as
righteousness." 4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift
but as something due. 5 But to one who does not work but trusts him who
justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to
Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the
righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be
the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath,
but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest
on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to
the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham
(who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the
father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed,
who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not
exist.

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

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word,
we will trust your word.

^HOLY GOSPEL
P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd Chapter
C: Glory to you O Lord

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He
came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a
teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do
unless God is with that person." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell
you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from
above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having
grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be
born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the
kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of
the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be
astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind
blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know
where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born
of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things
be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do
not understand these things?

11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what
we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you
about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell
you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the
one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses
lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted
up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

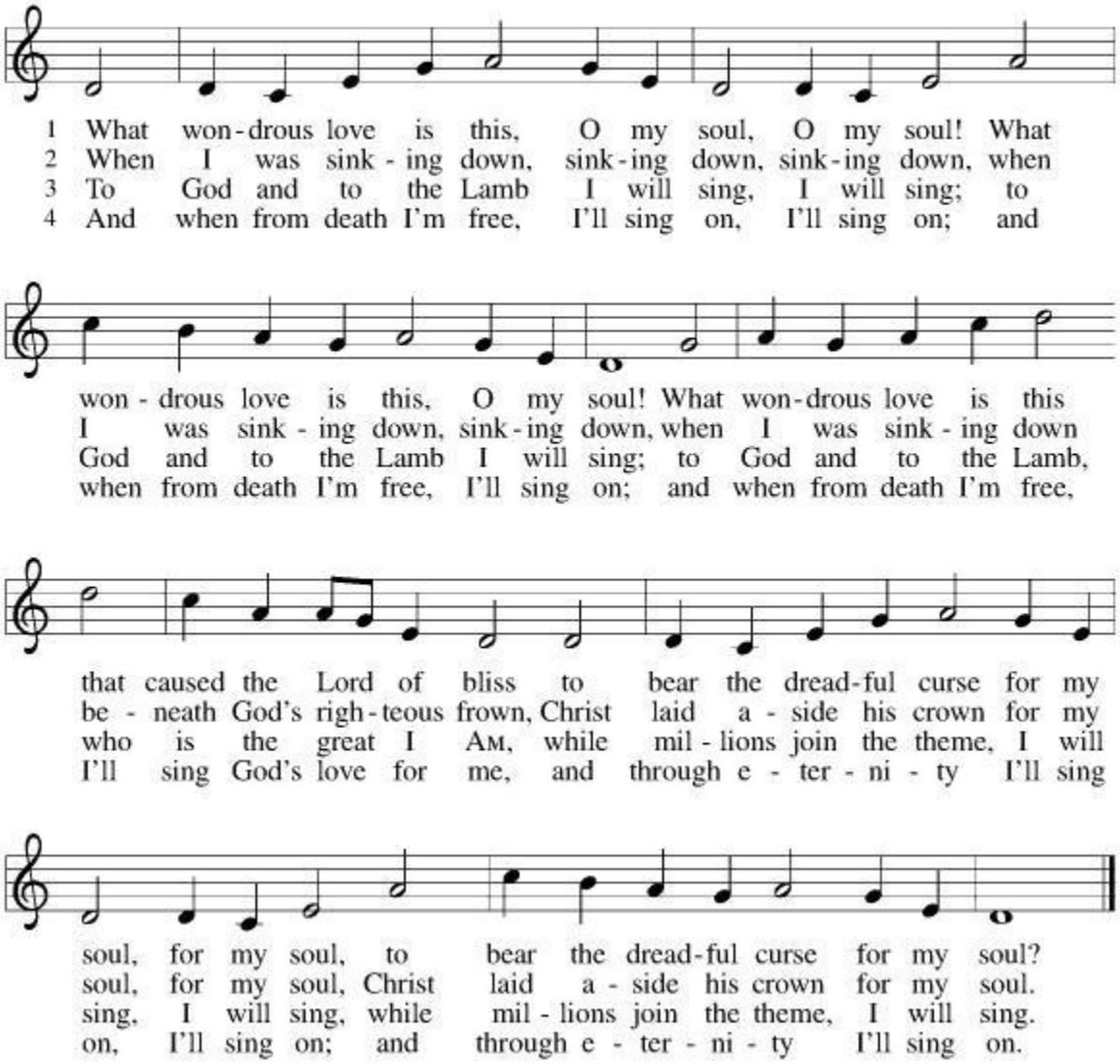
16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON Pastor Scott Lee

^HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This



^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

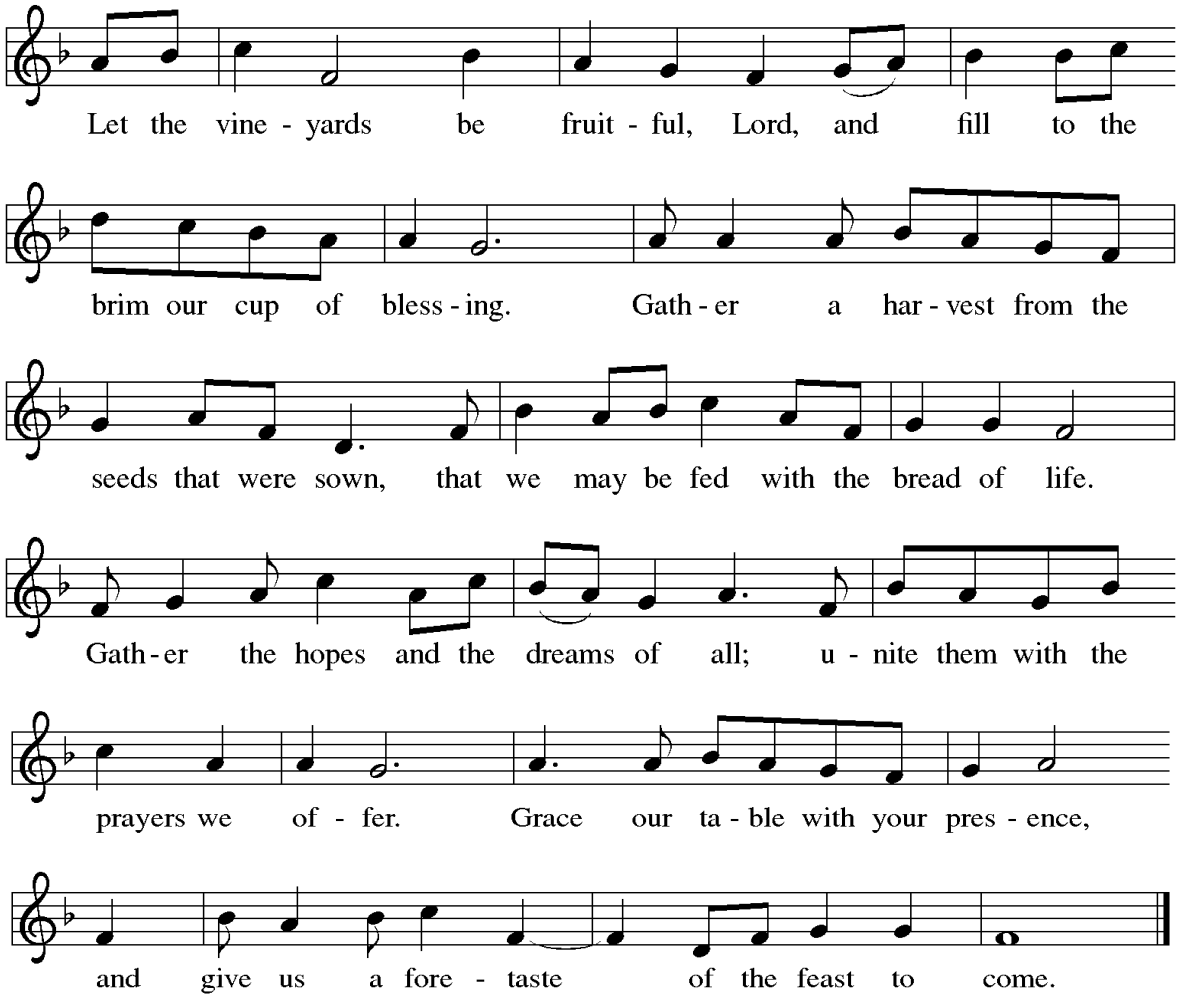
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Kneeling as able.)*
Response: Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

^PEACE
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you feel comfortable.

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, 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

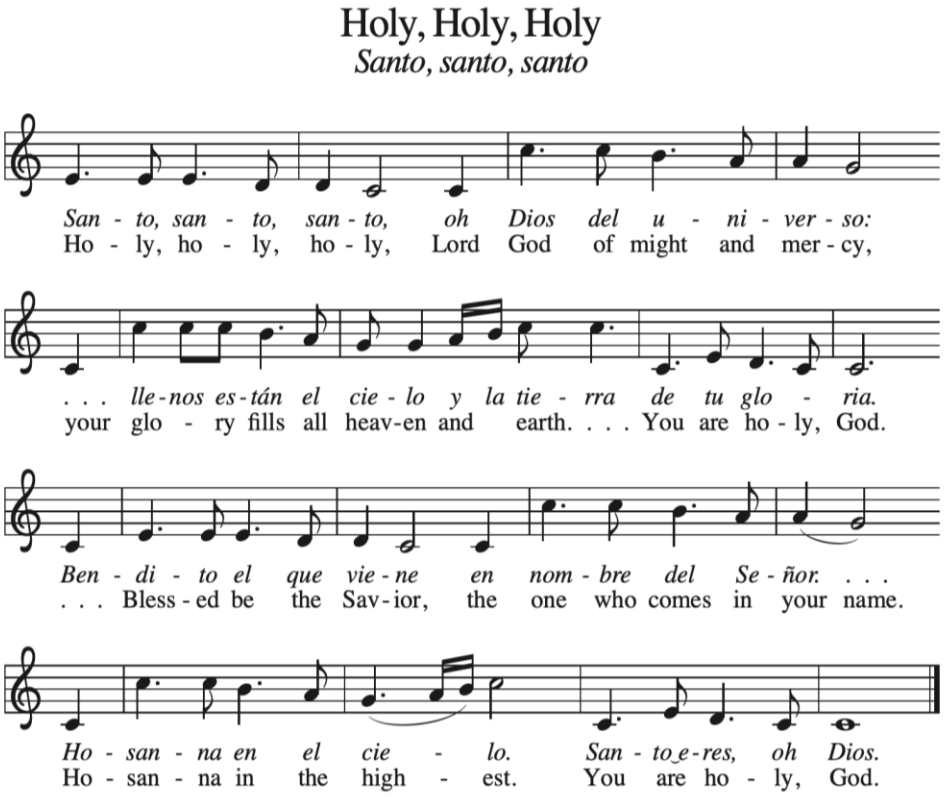


OFFERING

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. . **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:



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

^LORD'S PRAYER

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.

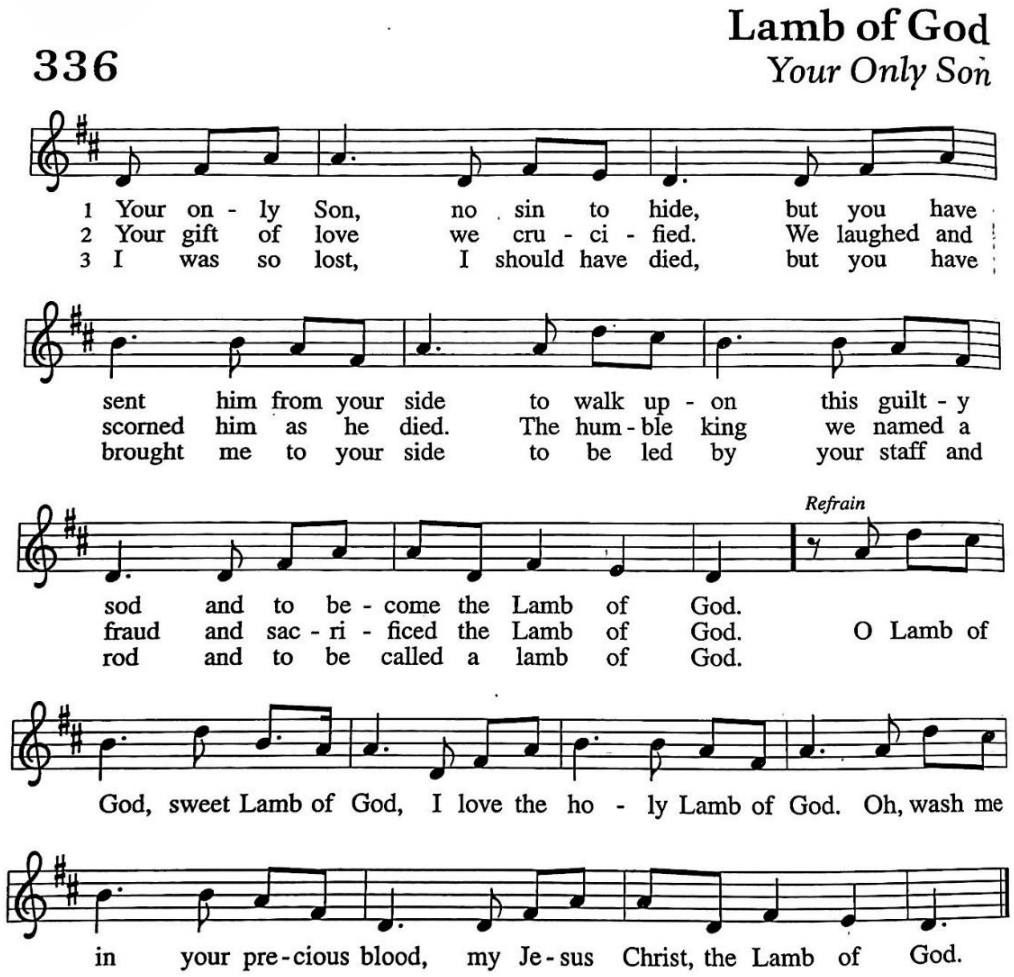
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *(By Intinction)*

All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of ***Holy Communion****. After it is placed in your hand, dip your wafer in the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice). Sign a communion card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

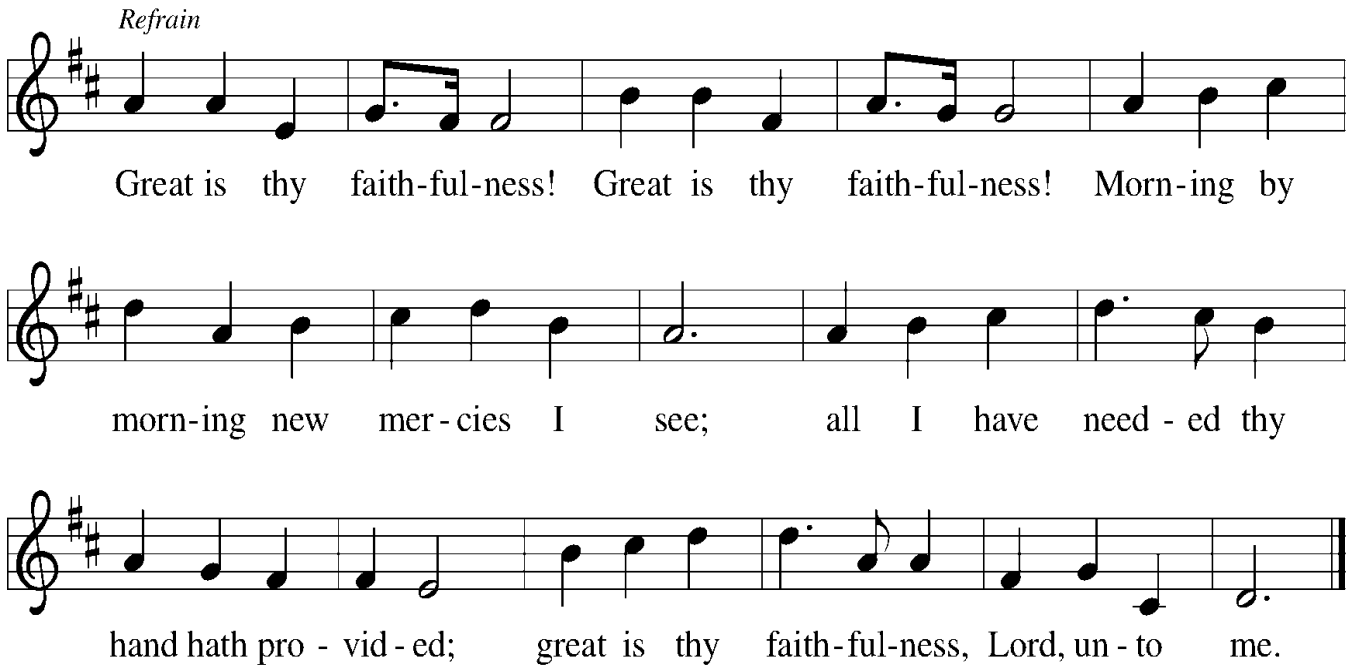
P: The table is ready, come and eat.
C: Amen

(*Verse 1 only)*



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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



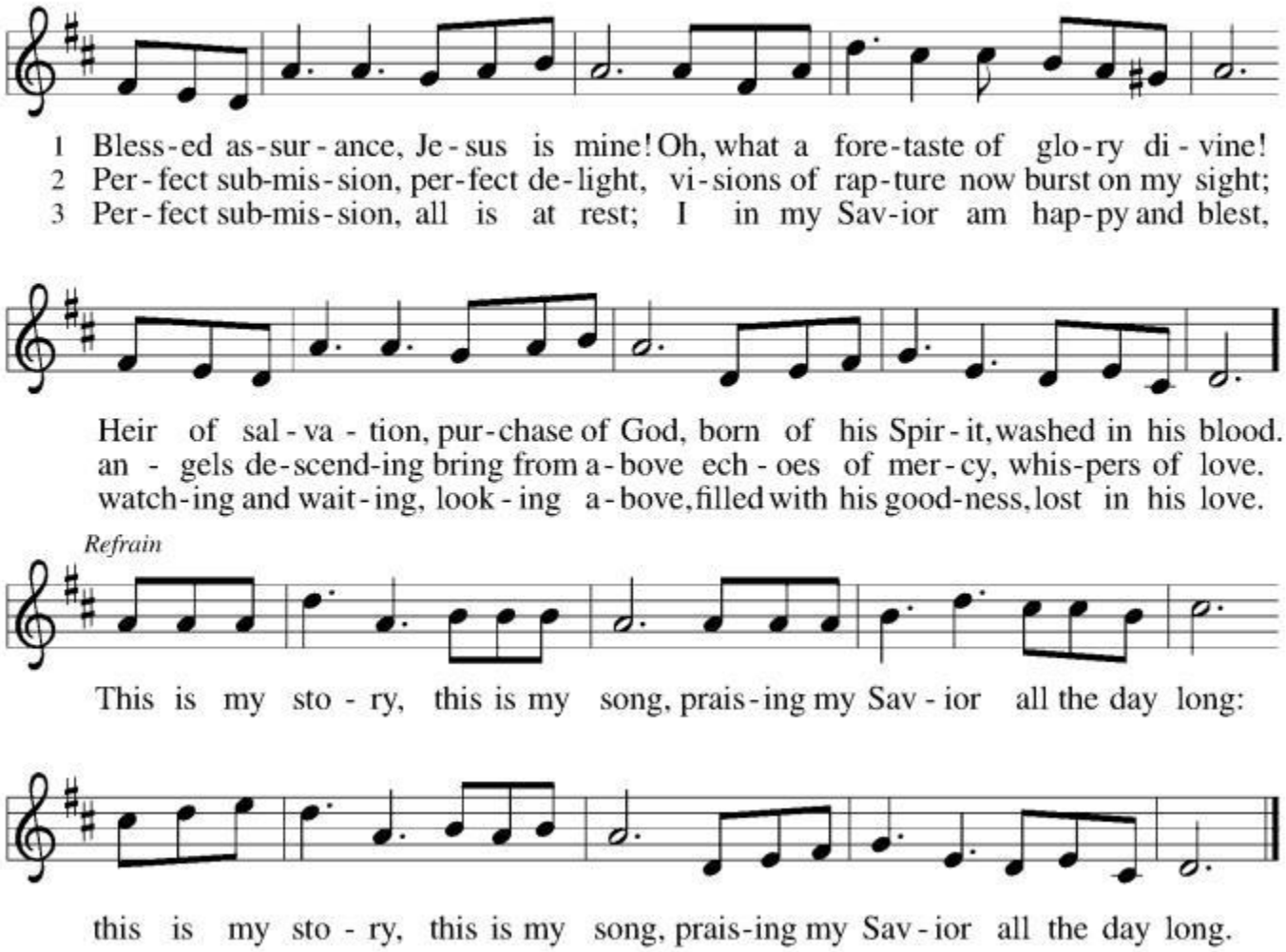
POST COMMUNION PRAYER
God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING
Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

HYMN

Blessed Assurance



^DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

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. We are committed to racial equity in our congregation, community, and country. 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.

Welcome Visitors! We are very glad you are with us today! It is a privilege to have you share our worship service. Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor Guest Book located at the top of the steps at our Chester Pike entrance. We would appreciate having a record of your communion with us today. Please sign a communion card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions please ask any of the members, we'll be happy to help. Check out www.immanuelnorwood.org or our Facebook page. **Thanks for being with us!**

Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity. We have three easy and 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!

Easter Flowers! Tulips & Hyacinths are available to order until **March 22nd;** $8 each, please see Jean Crane.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

SUNDAY	Choir Practice	9: 15AM
	Education Hour	10:00 AM
	Worship	11:00 AM
	Worship and Music Committee	12:00 PM
	Communion Preparation Class	12: 30 PM
WEDNESDAY	Bible Study in Person @St. Matt's Woodlyn	9:00AM
THURSDAY	Zoom Bible Study	7:00 PM

	Lector	**Worship Assistant**	**Greeters**	**Acolytes**
Feb 22	D. McCellan	ML Horne-Onimus	J. Crane	E. Enriquez
Mar 1			C. Kelly	
Mar 8			J. Morrison	

January Income - $ 8,443
January Expenses - $10,790

Communion cards!
Please remember to submit your communion card at least once a year!

Irish Sweet Treats Order Time!!!

Order forms are available on the hospitality table, and are due by **March 8th!** The orders will be delivered by March 15th.

Heating Oil Season is Here!

Our mascot for our Heating Oil campaign, **Scout** is asking that our members do their best to contribute monthly a little extra using **the OIL envelopes you'll find at the BRIGHT YELLOW Heating Oil campaign poster** board located in the Hospitality area.

Lenten Vesper/Dinner Service will take place **WEDNESDAYs, at 6:00PM** at the locations listed below**.** A light dinner will be shared as part of the worship service.

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
3/4/2026	St. Timothy Aston	535 Lamp Post Ln, Aston Township, PA 19014
3/11/2026	St. Matthew Woodlyn	156 Fairview Rd, Woodlyn, PA 19094
3/18/2026	St. Timothy Aston	535 Lamp Post Ln, Aston Township, PA 19014
3/25/2026	Holy Spirit Secane	2545 Franklin Avenue Secane, Pa 19018

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 coupons. Help us help our church!** See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for details.

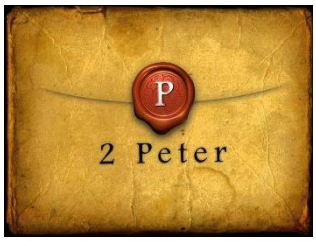
Please let the Property Committee know if you are willing to help with snow removal. Contact Fred Warner or Karl McClellan.

In the event of **Severe Weather** please call the church office at 610.586.5860 for a recorded announcement on the status of Sunday morning services. Closing announcement will be made no later than 6:30 AM to ensure ample time to plan your morning.

Choir News! Yes! The preparations are underway for the Easter Cantata! Practices are held on Sundays at 9:15AM in the choir room! There's still time to join! Everyone welcome!

Adult Education Hour On Sundays

Join us for a video series on the Book of 2 Peter. "How do we resist false teaching?" Please join us for some great discussion. If you have any questions, please see Jeanne Warner.



Easter Happenings!

Candy making will began on **February 24th and following Tuesdays at 6:00PM**. No experience ? No problem! We will train you!

Orders are being taken now and must be in by **March 8th.** Ordered candy will be delivered by **March 29th.**

Egg Hunt! The annual Easter Egg hunt will take place on **Saturday April 4th** 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.

Easter Breakfast Sign Ups NOW AVAILABLE! Let us know that you plan to come and what you plan to contribute to the meal. Thank you for your generosity and time in contributing so that all may enjoy!