

BY faith

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
1st Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025

Pastor: David Reim - 549-5250

Pianist: Julie Reim

Ushers: Willy and Roman

Read Before the Service: Psalm 61 Hymnal pg. 136

Opening Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, you have promised, “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16) O LORD, we thank you that you have given us saving faith in your Son Jesus Christ, our only Savior from sin. Lord, may you keep us in that true faith and preserve us from hypocrisy of our own hearts. Open our hearts that we may hear Your Word and come to you in true faith which repents of our sins and rejoices in your grace and mercy in our Savior Jesus Christ. In His name we ask it. Amen.

Invocation:

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



Opening Hymn: 394 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

2. May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4. When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Confession of Sins: P: Jesus invites us saying, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

C: We come to you Lord, with the heavy burden of our sins. We know that You bore our sins in Your own body on the cross. Therefore we are confident to confess our sins trusting in You for forgiveness.

C & P: Almighty and most merciful God, I confess that I am a sinner by my very nature, I was born in the sin of Adam. Because of my corrupt nature, I sin against you daily in my thoughts, in my words and actions. I have done the things you forbid, and I fail to do the things you command. Lord, I know I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. Yet, I come before you in repentance, because you are merciful and gracious and have given Your Son to die for me. Oh God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Forgive me, I pray, for Jesus sake.

P: God, our heavenly Father, is truly merciful and gracious, He has given His own Son into death for our sins, and raised Jesus to life for our justification. By His unfailing word of promise, I assure you that all your sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake.



Response of Praise: Hymn 244

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory, To the Lamb that once was slain!

Epistle Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-8

“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. 2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

3 Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Baal Peor; for the Lord your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor. 4 But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today, every one of you.

5 “Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. 6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ 7 “For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? 8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Response of Praise:

P: He shall call upon Me, and I will answer Him:

C: I will deliver him and honor him.

P: With long life will I satisfy him:

C: And show him My salvation.

P: He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High:

C: Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty

P: For He shall give His angels charge over you:

C: To keep you in all your ways.

P: They shall bear you up in their hands:

C: Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

P: I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God:

C: In Him will I trust.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 12:12-17

12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was

rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Confession of Faith: The Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Hymn: 224 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!

1. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!

Be all Thy graces now out poured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Thy fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light,
Thou in the faith dost men unite
Of every land and every tongue;
This to Thy praise, O Lord, our God, be sung.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2. Thou holy Light, Guide Divine,
Oh, cause the Word of Life to shine!
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From every error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our Master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

3. Thou holy Fire, Comfort true,
Grant us the will Thy work to do
And in Thy service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by Thy power prepare each heart
And to our weakness strength impart

That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to Thee, our Lord, ascend
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Sermon Theme:

THE MAKING OF A HYPOCRITE!

Text: Mark 7:1-23

“Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. 2 Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. 3 For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”

- 1. Hypocrisy Is Outward Actions that do NOT Engage the Heart.**
- 2. Hypocrisy makes Rules You Can Keep to Look Righteous.**
- 3. Hypocrisy loves to Find Fault in Others.**

9 He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

4. Hypocrisy Tries to make Disobedience look Righteous.

14 When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: 15 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. 16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”

17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. 18 So He said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, 19 because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?”

20 And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

5. Hypocrisy has Only One Cure - Jesus!

Hymn: 371 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

1. Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.
2. Bold shall I stand in that great Day,
For who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully through these absolved I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
3. The holy, meek, unspotted Lamb,
Who from the Father's bosom came,
Who died for me, e'en me t'atone,
Now for my Lord and God I own.
4. Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy-seat of God
Forever doth for sinners plead,
For me--e'en for my soul--was shed.
5. Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.
6. When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then, this shall be all my plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
7. Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Offerings for Christ's Church:

Sing - while offering is brought forward Hymn 441 st. 1-2

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive

And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!


Prayers of the Church:

The 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.

P: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

OFFERTORY



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and truly understand them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 179 On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

1. On my heart imprint Thine image,
Blessed Jesus, King of Grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Have no power Thee to efface.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's Foundation,
And my Glory and Salvation.



Scripture Treasure to Remember

Romans 15:13

*“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today - Bible Class at 11:20.

Monday - Brass Trio and Men’s Choir at 6:30

Wednesday - Skype Bible Study with Kenneth Nyman 9:30
Lenten Service at 6:00. We continue to see how **The Deepest Stroke that Pierced Him, was the Stroke that Justice gave.** This week we consider how, **Before Caiaphas, Jesus was Convicted.**

Thursday - Pastoral Study Club 2:00
Catechism Class at 4:00.

Friday - Shut-in visit with George at 1:30

Next Sunday - Worship Service at 10:00.
Bible Study at 11:15

The Season of Lent

The word Lent is related to the word for Spring. Spring is a season of hopeful waiting, a battle between cold and warmth. We have a few days of warm sun, then the snow returns. Yet it doesn't last long, as it warms again. Bulbs planted deep in the ground will poke their heads through the soil providing excited anticipation of their blossoms.

In a similar way, as we follow Jesus through His passion, we feel the biting cold of our sins that brought suffering and death to our Lord and Saviour. Yet we feel the warmth of His love conquering the cold and promising the blooming of our Saviour's resurrection, bringing life and peace and beauty to our lives. The warmth of our Saviour's love is appreciated so much more after feeling the cold of our lost estate and realizing the cost of our salvation. Enter this Lenten season with that eager anticipation.

ILC Tour Choir

The Immanuel Tour Choir will be leaving for their tour of our congregations in Washington state. They will have concerts in Spokane next Sunday and Monday. They will travel to Clarkston, Orofino, Tacoma and Lynnwood the following week. This is an opportunity to hear them in person. The concerts may also be available online.

CLC Call News

Berea Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, MN has called members **Christine Starland** as a part-time teacher and Deb Owens to teach band, to fill the vacancy created by Cathy Augustin's retirement. **Pastor Johnathan Schnose** of Bethel Congregation in Morris, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea School in Inver Grove Heights, MN has received the call to Luther Memorial School in Fond du Lac, WI

Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to the tri-parish of Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran in Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Lutheran in White River, SD.

ILC Visitors Day

Immanuel Lutheran High School will host their annual High School Visitors Day on Friday, May 2, 2025 for students grades 7 and up. A schedule of events and online registration can be found at www.ilc.edu. A theater performance of "The Worst High School Play in the World" will take place on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm. Friday night's play performance will be live streamed on Youtube with an unlisted link that will be shared via email. The Immanuel Band will perform before the play on Friday at 7:00 pm, and student talent performances will take place Saturday at 7:00 pm. Performances are free and open to the public. For more information please contact Prof. Joel Gullerud (joel.gullerud@ilc.edu 715-544-8446). Please register students and chaperones by Friday, April 25.