



...therefore
I have hope:
The steadfast love
of the LORD never
ceases; his mercies
never come
to an end.

L A M E N T A T I O N S 3 : 2 1 - 2 2

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

On this final day of the year, we are gathered together to meditate on the goodness of our God during the past year and to pray for His grace for the future. Though we often find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty, we turn again and again to the Lord our God who does not change. His Word has been our fortress and our Rock of refuge in all times. So as we approach the New Year, we turn again to that Word – to its revelation and its promises. It helps us to know God better. It will direct our prayers. It will fill us with hope. It will remind us of the forgiveness which we have in Jesus.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

537 – Every Morning Mercies New

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** God invites us to come into His presence and worship Him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask Him to forgive us.
- C** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you. During the past year my mind has entertained thoughts that it should not, my lips have spoken words that would have better been left unsaid, my hands and feet have done things and gone places where they ought not to have been. I am unworthy of anything good from you. I deserve to be punished for what I have done—not just in this life, but also for all eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son, born to a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live and then to die as the sacrifice of reconciliation for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 93:5, 2, 1

- P** Your testimonies are very sure;
- C** **Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.**
- P** Your throne is established from of old;
- C** **You are from everlasting.**
- P** The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength.
- C** **Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.**

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - ginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be for - ev - er more. A - men.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes the words 'and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - ginning,'. The third staff concludes the piece with 'is now, and ev - er shall be for - ev - er more. A - men.' and ends with a double bar line.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes the words 'on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.' and ends with a double bar line.

Gloria to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a simple, melodic style. The lyrics are: "All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One, Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill." The final note of the piece is a whole note G, followed by a double bar line.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...
... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Epistle Reading

Romans 3:21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 145:1-14

- P** I will extol You, my God, O King;
C **And I will bless Your name forever and ever.**
- P** Every day I will bless You,
C **And I will praise Your name forever and ever.**
- P** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
C **And His greatness is unsearchable.**
- P** One generation shall praise Your works to another,
C **And shall declare Your mighty acts.**
- P** I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty,
C **And on Your wondrous works.**
- P** Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts,
C **And I will declare Your greatness.**
- P** They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness,
C **And shall sing of Your righteousness.**
- P** The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
C **Slow to anger and great in mercy.**
- P** The LORD is good to all,
C **And His tender mercies are over all His works.**
- P** All Your works shall praise You, O LORD,
C **And Your saints shall bless You.**
- P** They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,
C **And talk of Your power,**
- P** To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,
C **And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.**
- P** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
C **And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.**
- P** The LORD upholds all who fall,
C **And raises up all who are bowed down.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:18-24

¹⁸ Then He said, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.” ²⁰ And again He said, “To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.” ²² And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, ²⁴ “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

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

521 (1-4) – What God Ordains Is Always Good

Sermon Text

Lamentations 3:22-32

²² Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. ²⁶ It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷ It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth. ²⁸ Let him sit alone and keep silent, Because God has laid it on him; ²⁹ Let him put his mouth in the dust— There may yet be hope. ³⁰ Let him give his cheek to the one who strikes him, And be full of reproach. ³¹ For the Lord will not cast off forever. ³² Though He causes grief, Yet He will show compassion According to the multitude of His mercies.



Sermon

God is Faithful, Even in Our Suffering

I. God Mercifully Limits Our Suffering

II. God Wisely Uses Our Suffering

III. God Compassionately Ends Our Suffering

Offertory



Create 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, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

Hymn

384 - Oh, How Great Is Thy Compassion

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bles - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

General Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

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.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

123 – Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

December 31	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
January 7	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Annual Voters’ Meeting
January 14	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President: The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor Mark Kranz at the end of the 2023-24 academic year: Neil Bernthal, Jeff Karnitz, Joshua Ohlmann, Dan Roehl, Seth Schaller, Steve Sydow, Matthew Thurow, Paul Tiefel III, and Matthew

Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2026. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 2, 2024 (letters postmarked December 23, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip: Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Find more information and apply online: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org

CLC News: Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO has received the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rapid City, SD has received the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

Fruits of Faith	December 24, 2023	WH: 36
Immanuel Home		\$757.25
Property Improvement		\$50.00
ILC Scholarship		\$150.00
Tuition Grant		\$5.00
Benevolence		\$25.00
Missions		\$100.00
Total		\$1,087.25

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

January 1-6, 2024

Monday: Hebrews 13:8 – When we remember how Jesus Christ sustained His people of old and how He has cared for us today, the fact that He is eternal gives us confidence to face every new year.

Tuesday: Lamentations 3:22-32 – Because God sent His Son to be our Savior, we can be sure that He will also show compassion in every event of 2024 that might threaten to consume us.

Wednesday: Luke 2:22-32 – Even as a helpless infant, Jesus was presented to God in accordance with the Law, fulfilling all righteousness for us. Simeon finds his comfort for life and death in this Child, the Lord's Christ!

Thursday: 2 Timothy 4:3-8 – Paul, like Simeon (Luke 2) is ready to depart this life whenever the Lord calls him (verses 6-8). He warns Timothy of opposition in this world and urges him to carry on the ministry of the gospel (verses 3-5).

Friday: John 1:1-14 – John, the fore-runner of the Light, prepared the way for Jesus, the true Light. Rescued by forgiveness, we behold the Savior's glory, full of grace and truth.

Saturday: Matthew 3:13-17 – Epiphany! Fulfilling all righteousness for us includes Jesus being baptized by John. The Spirit descends, and the Father manifests Jesus' glory, declaring Him to be the very Son of God.



