



Elijah
ascended
in a
whirlwind
into
heaven.

2 Kings 2:11, NRSV

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Although many travelers to the Holy Land focus their visits on biblical sites located in Israel, there are many noteworthy sacred locations in today's nation of Jordan, on the east side of the Jordan River. Two of these sites are the site called Tell Mar Elias, by tradition the place where the prophet Elijah was born, and Elijah's Hill, near the Jordan River location of Jesus' Baptism, where it is said that Elijah ascended to heaven in the whirlwind. Both sites were the location of notable Christian churches centuries ago. Elijah has long been remembered and honored by Christian people as a precursor to Jesus and an important historical figure of faith. Yet Elijah was a human being—just like us. His presence on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and Moses reminds us of what is to come for us humans by God's grace for the sake of our glorious and glorified Lord Jesus Christ.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

719 - Jesus on the Mountain Peak

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 30:15, 18, 29

P For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,

C **“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”**

P Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

C **For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.**

P You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept,

C **and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.**

Confession and Absolution

P O God, our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

C **Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

P We confess that we have not always brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

C **Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

P We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both that which we know and those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous laws.

C **Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

P Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

C **Amen.**

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 99:1-5

P The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

C **He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

P The LORD is great in Zion;

C **he is exalted over all the peoples.**

P Let them praise your great and awesome name!

C **Holy is he!**

P The King in his might loves justice.

C **You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

P Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool!

C **Holy is he!**

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 key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes 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, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Glory 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 musical notation consists of four 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, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with 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

2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. ¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 50:1-6

P The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth

C from the rising of the sun to its setting.

P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,

C God shines forth.

- P** Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
- C** **before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.**
- P** He calls to the heavens above
- C** **and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**
- P** “Gather to me my faithful ones,
- C** **who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”**
- P** The heavens declare his righteousness,
- C** **for God himself is judge!**

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-9

² And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” ⁸ And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

135 - 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

Sermon Text

2 Kings 2:1-12

¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.



Sermon

Is the Glory of Heaven Real?

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.

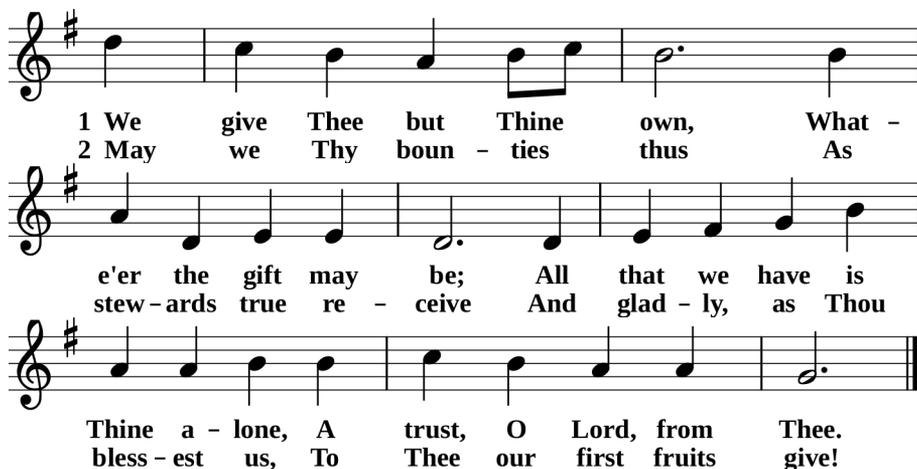
Hymn

619 (1-4, 7) - Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High

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.
bless - 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.

Farewell to Alleluia

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4, 7

P This week with Ash Wednesday, we begin our observance of Lent. To highlight the penitential nature of the season, it is the Church's custom to suspend the use of the word "Alleluia," which means "Praise the Lord." A tradition has been in place since the fifth century not to use the joyful word "Alleluia" in worship from the conclusion of worship on the final Sunday before Lent, which is today, until the first service on Easter Sunday. The text of our closing hymn, "Alleluia, Song of Gladness," dates back to the eleventh century and links us to a millennium of God's people at worship. We now repeat words from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which remind us that there are appropriate times for all things, including a time to keep silence, which we will observe regarding use of the "Alleluia" throughout Lent.

P For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;

C a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

P a time to break down, and a time to build up;

C a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

P a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

C a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

P As part of our observance of a holy Lent as it begins this week, we now say farewell to Alleluia until the time of our rejoicing anew at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

C Alleluia! 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

LSB 417 - Alleluia, Song of Gladness

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Alleluia, Song of Gladness

LSB 417

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while
 4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed

can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
 lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,
 here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions
 Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter

Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
 All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -
 Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn
 With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -

God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
 time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow,
 ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

We are mourning exiles who long to be in the heavenly Jerusalem, here referred to as "joyful mother." During Lent, the Church refrains from songs of "alleluia."

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Music: John Goss, 1800-80

LAUDA ANIMA

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

February 11	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
February 14	2:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
February 18	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Board of Education/Board of Trustees
February 21	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
February 25	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **February 18** – Board of Education/Board of Trustees
- **March 3** – Board of Elders/Church Council/Ladies

Midweek Lenten Worship: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. We will have midweek worship services throughout the Lenten season on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm. These services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. We do so through the eyes of the Holy Evangelist, Saint John, as we hear, in John 18–19, of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, Jesus facing Annas and Caiaphas, Jesus before Pilate, Jesus delivered, Jesus crucified, and Jesus’ death and burial. Look for this Lenten season to provide a deeper understanding of your Baptism into the passion and death of Christ, with the result as Paul describes it: we are “always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” (2 Corinthians 4:10).

ILC Tour Choir Concert: The ILC Tour Choir is scheduled to be here for a concert on Tuesday, March 12th @ 7:00 pm.

ILC Tour Choir: For many years the ILC Tour Choir has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for

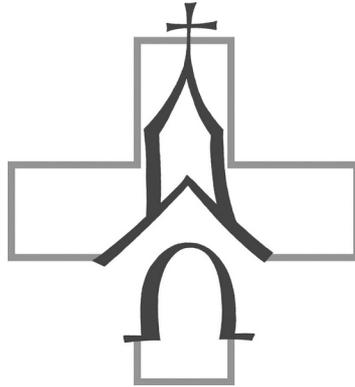
the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to & "ILC Tour Choir."

ILC Dorm Supervisors: After serving as dorm supervisors, both Paul and Courtney Agenten plan on resigning at the end of this academic year. We thank them both for their faithful service to the LORD and for being such positive role models to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for these two positions to begin the 2024-25 year, an adult male for the boys' dorm and an adult female for the girls' dorm. These roles are vital to our campus given how they provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Those who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.864.9231) for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins April 1.

Cooks Needed: CLC Youth Camp is in need of A Head Cook and Cooking Staff to prepare meals for the campers during the week of camp (June 9-15, 2024) on the ILC campus. Former Head Cook April Sydow is willing to work with the new cooks to help organize and plan in preparation for camp. If you would like to volunteer in either of these roles, please contact Camp Directors Sam Radermacher or Amber Casto at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com.

CLC News: Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran School in Phoenix, AZ has returned the call from Gethsemane Lutheran School in Saginaw, MI. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Zion Lutheran in Hidewood and Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, SD is still considering the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Teacher Amy Osborne of Holy Trinity Lutheran School, West Columbia, SC, is still considering the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Teacher Kendra Rodebaugh of Gethsemane Lutheran School, Spokane, WA, has been called to Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI. <> Grace Lutheran of Valentine, NE has called Noah Ohlmann to be their fourth full-time teacher (teaching the lower grades) beginning in January 2025 after his December 2024 graduation. Noah has accepted this call. <> Teacher Matthew Kranz, Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, has been called by Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI to be their 5th-6th grade teacher and assistant principal. <> Teacher Matthew Thurow of Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, MN has been called to be a professor at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire, WI. This is to fill the position currently held by Professor Mark Kranz who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Fruits of Faith		February 4, 2024		Attendance: WH - 54	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$5,082.25	General Budget	\$50.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,423.00	Weekly Need	-\$57.69	Weekly Need		
+\$3,659.25	-Under / +Over	-\$7.69	-Under / +Over		
\$10,657.00	Year to Date Offerings	\$65.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$7,115.00	Year to Date Need	\$288.45	Year to Date Need		
+\$3,542.00	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$223.45	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund		
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund		
\$100.00	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund		
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)		
	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship		
	Sign Fund	\$100.00	ILC Tour Choir		



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

February 12 - February 17

Monday: Mark 8:27-33 – Although the disciples recognize that Jesus is the Christ (verse 29), as He begins to prepare them for His path of suffering, their response (verse 32) demonstrates their continued lack of understanding.

Tuesday: Mark 8:34-38 – Jesus speaks to the crowd and to His disciples, pointing out that following Him is not about the world's idea of success, but about the cross. Yet that cross brings life!

Wednesday: Mark 10:32-40 (Ash Wednesday) – As Jesus heads to Jerusalem, He once again prepares His disciples for the suffering that lies ahead. The sons of Zebedee respond by seeking positions of honor for themselves, reflecting the human nature with which we all are born.

Thursday: Mark 10:41-45 – A fight for honor is brewing among the disciples. Jesus points to the suffering servant (Himself) as the proper goal among them. Whoever wants to be great will be a servant (verse 43), just as Jesus is.

Friday: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 – The message of the cross turns upside down the world's ideas of power and wisdom. A crucified Christ — offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks (verse 23) — is the power and wisdom of God!

Saturday: Jeremiah 8:19-22 – The prophet hears his people in captivity mourning their lack of rescue. The Lord reminds them of the reasons for their plight (their sin), and the prophet longs for God's healing hand.



