

*The time has
come ... The
kingdom of
God is near.*

*Repent and
believe the
good news!*

Mark 1:15

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). This forty-day season of Lent is a time of fasting and repentance. It is a time when we recall Jesus' forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. Throughout these forty days, remember where we are going. We are headed toward the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. We are headed toward Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

5 – Lord, Open Thou My Heart to Hear

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.
- C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C** Amen.



✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 91:9-13

- P** Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,
C **Even the Most High, your dwelling place,**
P No evil shall befall you,
C **Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;**
P For He shall give His angels charge over you,
C **To keep you in all your ways.**
P In their hands they shall bear you up,
C **Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**
P You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
C **The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.**
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son
C **And to the Holy Spirit**
P As it was in the beginning
C **Is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.". The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.


Kyrie Eleison
LORD, HAVE MERCY

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

1 To God on high be glo-ry And peace to all the earth, For
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt-ed, You take all sin a - way; Ex -

God has shown His fa - vor In Je - sus' ho - ly birth! Al -
tend to us Your mer - cy and hear us as we pray. With

might - y God and Fa - ther, Our hum - ble thanks we
God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's

bring; We wor - ship You, we bless You, Lord
throne, You reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, For

God, our heav'n - ly King.
You are Lord a - lone!

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.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah,

and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”⁸ And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together.⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.”¹² And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,¹⁶ and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25:1-10

P To You, O LORD,

C I lift up my soul.

P O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed;

C Let not my enemies triumph over me.

P Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed;

C Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

- P** Show me Your ways, O LORD;
- C** **Teach me Your paths.**
- P** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation;
- C** **On You I wait all the day.**
- P** Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses,
- C** **For they are from of old.**
- P** Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;
- C** **According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.**
- P** Good and upright is the LORD;
- C** **Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.**
- P** The humble He guides in justice,
- C** **And the humble He teaches His way.**
- P** All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth,
- C** **To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

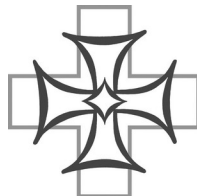
Epistle Reading

James 1:12-18

¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Response

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** **Amen.**



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

166 – Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Sermon Text

Mark 1:9-15

⁹ It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹ Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” ¹² Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³ And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him. ¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”



Sermon

The Tempted Perfect Goat



Offertory

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. Restore to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir-it free.

Hymn

320 – Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)

Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv - er Who with o - pen
heart and hand Bless - es free - ly as a riv - er
That re - fresh - es all the land. Grant us, then, the

grace of giv-ing With a spir-it large and true
 That our life and all our liv-ing
 We may con-se-crate to You.

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

410 – Jesus, Lead Thou On

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule

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)
March 3	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Church Council/Board of Elders

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
- **April 7** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting

Midweek Lenten Worship: 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

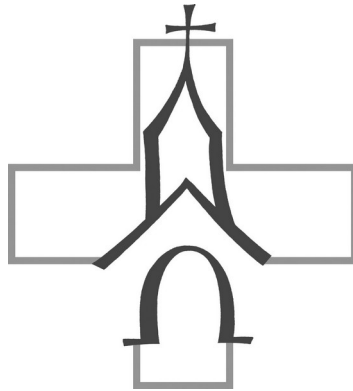
the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to & "ILC Tour Choir."

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: Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Mankato, MN has called Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church and School, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Zion Lutheran in Hidewood and Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, SD has returned 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, is still considering the call to Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI. <> Teacher Matthew Kranz, Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, is still considering the call to 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 is still considering the call 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.

<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>	
\$471.00	General Budget	\$5.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,423.00	Weekly Need	-\$57.69	Weekly Need
-\$952.00	-Under / +Over	-\$52.69	-Under / +Over
\$11,128.00	Year to Date Offerings	\$70.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$8,538.00	Year to Date Need	\$346.14	Year to Date Need
+\$2,590.00	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$276.14	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		ILC Tour Choir



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

February 19 - February 24

Monday: Matthew 11:20-24 – The rejection of Jesus by the cities in which He worked would finally lead to His cross, yet He sees the terrible consequences, not for Himself, but for them.

Tuesday: Hebrews 12:14-17 – The writer to the Hebrews warns against worldly lifestyles that would separate us from God's grace in Christ, as Esau was separated from his birthright.

Wednesday: Jeremiah 2:17-19 – The Lord through His prophet Jeremiah calls to the people to recognize the evil and bitterness that come from forsaking their fear of the Lord their God. It is not God's wish that they bring this on themselves.

Thursday: Jeremiah 3:22-23 – The Lord calls to His unfaithful people to come unto Him, and His call evokes a blessed response. There is salvation for Israel in the Lord their God (verse 23)!

Friday: Luke 4:23-30 – Even in His home town of Nazareth, Jesus would meet opposition from those who saw Him as no different from all the others. When He points this out to them, they are ready to stone Him. But His will be a different kind of death.

Saturday: Romans 11:17-24 – Paul points out that we are in the olive tree because God grafted us in, while others were broken off because of unbelief. Remain in His kindness and pray that others may yet be grafted back into the tree.



THE CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION'S
MINISTRY BY MAIL



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First
Sunday
in Lent

"WHO WAS THERE?"

Based on Matthew 26:42-44

Excerpts from the sermon for the 1st Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

Each week of Lent, we gather to read through and reflect on Jesus' passion and death, to thoroughly review that night in which He was betrayed, the hours of a hectic predawn trial, and the bitter smart of a crucifixion the following afternoon. But in full disclosure, we have to be honest enough to admit that only some of the four evangelists saw some of these events first hand, others none at all.

So let's consider the important question, "Who was there?"

Well, there were the disciples, but they're in and out. Judas is busy betraying his dear Teacher. The other eleven scatter. The priests and Pharisees were there, but they were so determined to get Jesus out of the way, they're willing to twist any fact or word out of context in order to have Him put to death. Pilate and Herod also serve as first-hand witnesses. But is Herod the inebriated jokester and Pilate is the one who asks, "What is truth?"

Everyone involved in this story is so consumed in manipulation, lies, confusion, and postmodern subjectivism, none of them can be trusted for an accurate account. If you can't trust what they have to say, how can you have any certainty what actually happened that night to Jesus?

When Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane, He took but three of His disciples along, and then left those three behind to venture deeper all by Himself about a stone's throw away. There, with no one around, the closest few eyes closed shut, Jesus expresses out loud the severity of what He's about to endure: "If Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me." Boldly declaring His determination to do whatever necessary to save your soul: "Nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done." And then when the sins of all mankind are placed on the innocent Lamb of God, an anguish so severe that He trembles in bloody sweat.

But how do we know any of these details? Who was there? The Bible clearly says in this case, Not one soul.

No one saw this happen with their eyes.

Then how do we know? Who's even telling this story?

God is. God writes every detail of Holy Scripture. And the Garden of Gethsemane is proof, because no one was there to see Jesus take your sins as His own except God Himself.

Some of the four evangelists saw some of the Passion happen. Some not at all. That matters not, because those holy men of old, who wrote as moved by the Holy Ghost, were inspired by God Himself to record what He wanted them to write... what He wanted you to read, hear, and believe.

And everything which happens across these 24 hours, every detail recorded in Holy Scripture is there from Him for your comfort. That which brings you shame, you can see it become Jesus' in Gethsemane. Any sin which weighs you down, see Him sweat it away in drops of blood. If you fear the consequences of your mistakes in word or deed, see His crucifixion as the guarantee that He suffered all in your place.

That's why back in the Garden Jesus kept going back to nudge His disciples out of sleep, "Watch." Look, something is happening. And it's for you.

He says the same to you throughout these weeks of Lent. Watch. Look at God's Son suffer and die. Look at all this written by your God for you. For you to repeat yourself.

You might doubt your authority, your expertise to do so, "Who am I to say what happened so long before I was born?"

True enough, but God makes you as much the eyewitness and authority as any other believer.

With your sins on His cross, your soul in His heart... Who was there? The Bible says you were.

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