

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

Love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

www.WinterHavenLutheran.com

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

As We Gather

Love is a word we use often, but do we truly understand its depth? The world defines love as a fleeting feeling or a self-serving transaction, but God reveals a love that is altogether different—a love that is patient, kind, selfless, and enduring. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul paints a picture of love that is not merely an emotion but an action, a commitment, and ultimately, a reflection of Christ Himself. At the cross, Jesus embodied perfect love—bearing all things, enduring all things, sacrificing everything for us. As we gather today, we are reminded that His love not only saves us but transforms us, shaping our relationships, guiding our actions, and calling us to reflect His grace in a world that so desperately needs it. “Faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love”—and that love is found in Christ alone.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

351 – Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Jeremiah 1:8, Hebrews 12:2, Ephesians 5:2

P Though we are weak, God strengthens us.

C **Though we are unworthy, He calls us His own.**

P The Lord says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you!"

C **His love casts out fear and His mercy never ends.**

P Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C **And walk in love, as Christ has loved us.**

P Lord, abide with us as we worship You!

C **And fill us with Your never-failing love.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P The love of God is patient and kind, yet our love so often falls short. We are quick to anger, slow to forgive, and self-seeking in our desires. We fail to love as Christ has loved us. Let us then come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and grace.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Our love is impatient and self-serving. We have spoken harsh words, harbored resentment, and failed to show the kindness of Christ. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may walk in Your love and reflect Your grace to the world. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

P The love of Christ covers all your sins. Go in peace, walk in His love, and serve the Lord with joy!

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 10:16-18

P The LORD is King forever and ever;

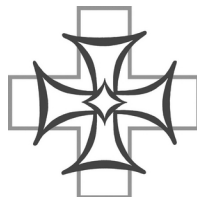
C **The nations have perished out of His land.**

P LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble;

C **You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear,**

P To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,

C **That the man of the earth may oppress no more.**



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 score 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 second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics, ending 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 score 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 second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending 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 score 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 second, third, and fourth staves continue the melody and lyrics, ending 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.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then said I: “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 71:1-6

P In You, O LORD, I put my trust;

C Let me never be put to shame.

P Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape;

C Incline Your ear to me, and save me.

P Be my strong refuge, To which I may resort continually;

C You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress.

P Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,

C Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

P For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;

C You are my trust from my youth.

P By You I have been upheld from birth;

C You are He who took me out of my mother’s womb. My praise shall be continually of You.

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:31-44

³¹ Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. ³² And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. ³³ Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. ³⁶ Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." ³⁷ And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region. ³⁸ Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. ³⁹ So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. ⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ. ⁴² Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; ⁴³ but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent." ⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.

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

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

363 – To Our Redeemer's Glorious Name

Sermon Text

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

³¹ And yet I show you a more excellent way. ¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. ⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror,

dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



Sermon

Cross-Shaped Love

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

342 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be

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.

✠ The Installation of Church Officers ✠

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -
oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C Amen.

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, the

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world,
 have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
 take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
 A - - men.

Distribution

Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!



O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry
be to the Father 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.

Thanksgiving

- P** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
- C** For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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

742 – Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

February 2	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Education/Elders Meetings
February 9	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
February 14	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
February 16	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **February 2** – Education/Elders
- **March 2** – Trustees/Church Council
- **April 6** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Paulette Galstad, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield that the Lord may comfort and strengthen them.

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:16)

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday, we hear how Jesus calls Simon Peter in Luke 5:1-11. After a fruitless night of fishing, Peter obeys Jesus’ command to cast his nets again and hauls in a miraculous catch. Overwhelmed by Jesus’ power and his own sinfulness, he falls to his knees, but Jesus doesn’t turn him away. Instead, He calls Peter to follow, saying, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” Like Peter, we are unworthy sinners, yet Jesus draws us to Himself in mercy, lifting us from the depths of sin and making us fishers of men. Join us next Sunday as we rejoice in the Savior who nets sinners, calls us to follow, and fills our empty nets with His grace!

CLC Call News: Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Watertown, SD and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD has returned the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Sam Naumann of Eau Claire, WI has returned the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.<> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN has returned the call to Trinity Lutheran School, Watertown, SD. <> Teacher Mikkela Schmitt of St. Stephen Lutheran School has received the call to Trinity Lutheran School,

Watertown, SD. <> Ms. Blair Sydow has received and accepted the call to continue serving as the full time upper grade teacher at Holy Trinity Lutheran School, West Columbia, SC.

Fruits of Faith		January 26, 2025	Attendance: WH – 32, ORL – 11	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,161.00	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$339.00	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over	
\$4,988.00	Year to Date Offerings	\$0.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$6,000.00	Year to Date Need	\$269.24	Year to Date Need	
-\$1,012.00	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$269.24	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund	
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund	
\$5.00	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund	
\$5.00	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)	
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship	
	Outreach		ILC Tour Choir	
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest	



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

February 3-8

Monday: John 4:4-24 – Jesus asks a drink from a Samaritan woman, but would rather give her much more (verse 14). He shows her the need for spiritual wisdom to worship God in spirit and in truth (verse 24).

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 – The apostle uses his own example to show that faith does not come through human wisdom, but by the persuading power of the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 – There is indeed a wisdom at work among God's people, but it is not the world's wisdom. It is the wisdom that God reveals to us through His Spirit (verse 10).

Thursday: Genesis 22:1-19 – Abraham's faith is tested when He is told to offer Isaac up to God. Abraham's faith in God's promises survive the test and the Lord provides a ram to be offered up instead of his son.

Friday: Micah 6:1-8 – The Lord accuses His people of rebelling against Him (verses 1-5), and Israel's response is to remember His word which requires doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with their God (verses 6-8).

Saturday: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 – The apostle Paul commends the Thessalonians' brotherly love, and encourages them to do so even more, conducting themselves decently toward outsiders as well.