

[God] gives life to the dead and
calls those things which do not
exist as though they did.

Romans 4:17



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

In our world, a "cover-up" is a scandal. It is a desperate attempt to hide the truth, bury the evidence, and escape the consequences of wrongdoing. When the truth finally comes out, reputations are ruined. As we gather today, we must admit that we all have things we would rather keep hidden. We constantly try to cover up our daily failures and secret sins from God and from each other. But the Almighty sees it all; His holy Law exposes our deepest secrets. Yet, in Romans 4, the Apostle Paul points us to a completely different kind of cover-up. It is a divine action that leads not to judgment, but to absolute peace. Today, we prepare our hearts for "The Ultimate Cover-Up."

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn 373 (1-3, 7) – By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 32:1-2, 5; Ephesians 2:8

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,

C **Whose sin is covered.**

P Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity,

C **And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden.

C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P For by grace you have been saved through faith,

C **And that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Since Eden, we have tried to cover our shame, hiding our faults from one another and our Creator. Yet, our own cover-ups always fail to justify us. Instead, God mercifully offers the ultimate cover-up – covering our sin completely with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Let us therefore 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, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins with which I have offended You and justly deserved Your punishment. I confess I have tried to hide my faults, justify my actions, and trust in my own works rather than Your grace. I am truly sorry and sincerely repent of these sins. I pray You of Your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Cover my shame, forgive my sin, and credit to me the righteousness of Christ.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He has covered your lawless deeds; He will not impute your sin to you. You are declared righteous in His sight.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



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.


GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

¹ Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 121

- P** I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
- C** **From whence comes my help?**
- P** My help comes from the LORD,
- C** **Who made heaven and earth.**
- P** He will not allow your foot to be moved;
- C** **He who keeps you will not slumber.**
- P** Behold, He who keeps Israel
- C** **Shall neither slumber nor sleep.**
- P** The LORD is your keeper;
- C** **The LORD is your shade at your right hand.**
- P** The sun shall not strike you by day,
- C** **Nor the moon by night.**
- P** The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
- C** **He shall preserve your soul.**
- P** The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in
- C** **From this time forth, and even forevermore.**

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?¹¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Response

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

C Amen.

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

295 – The Law of God Is Good and Wise

Sermon Text

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” ⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, ⁶ just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: ⁷ “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; ⁸ Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.” ¹³ For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, ¹⁵ because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ¹⁷ (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

Sermon Theme: *The Ultimate Cover-Up*

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.

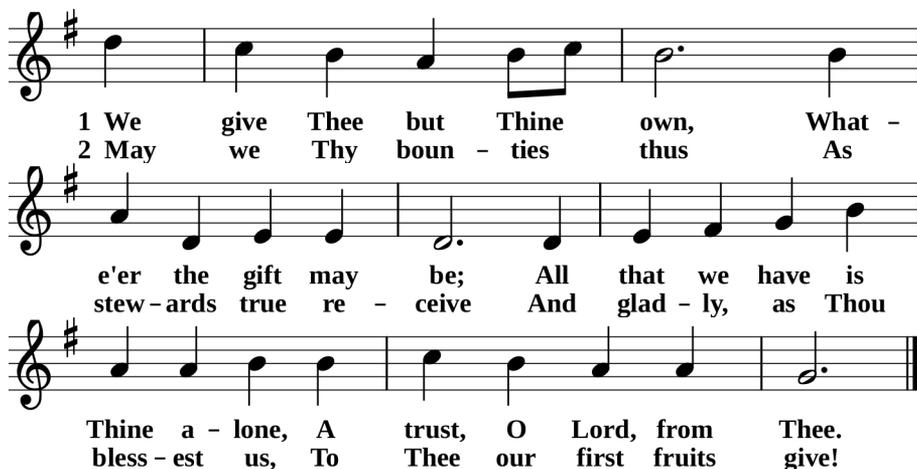
Hymn

389 – Not What These Hands Have Done

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 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

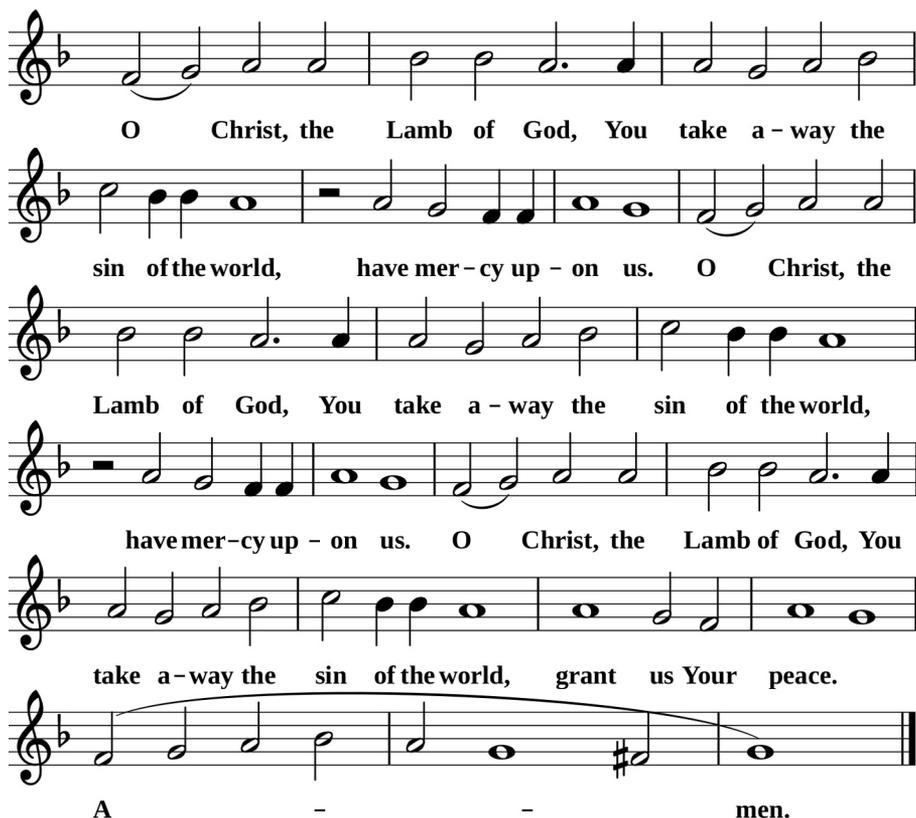
Pax Domini

- 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 peo ple 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 371 (1-2, 6-7) – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

March 1	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Board of Trustees/Church Council
March 4	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
March 11	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 13	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
March 15	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **March 1** – Trustees/Church Council
- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **May 3** – Education/Elders

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Have you ever blindly followed your GPS right into a dead end? It's incredibly frustrating! The Israelites felt the exact same way in our text for the Third Sunday in Lent (Exodus 17:1-7). They journeyed "according to the commandment of the LORD," only to arrive at Rephidim where there was absolutely no water. Parched and panicked, they complained, asking, "Is the LORD among us or not?" We often feel the same way when God's providence seems to steer our lives into a painful trial. But our Savior's route always has a redemptive purpose! Join us next Sunday as we explore the theme, "When God's 'GPS' Leads You into a Ditch," and discover how He graciously provides life-giving water from the smitten Rock.

Midweek Lenten Series: Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus: Our midweek Lenten services have begun. This year, our meditation follows the theme "Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus." We are exploring how the Old Testament account of Israel's rescue from Egypt foreshadows our own rescue from sin and death. Just as God heard the cries of His people in bondage, He hears us and answers us in Christ Jesus.

Please join us for the remainder of these opportunities to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Savior's passion. All services are at 2:00 PM.

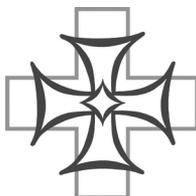
Service Schedule:

- **Mar 4:** The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer (Exodus 4:1-20)
- **Mar 11:** The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy (Exodus 12:1-14)
- **Mar 18:** The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us (Exodus 14:5-31)
- **Mar 25:** The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

CLC Call News: Teacher Noah Ohlmann of Grace Ev. Lutheran School, Valentine, NE, has received the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <>

Teacher Karen Swyter has resigned her call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Dr. Daniel Sullivan has received the call from the CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions to serve as a professor at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, WI. <> Dr. Daniel Schierenbeck has received the two-year call from the CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions to serve as the President of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Debra Mayhew has accepted the full-time call to teach grades 1-2 at Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Paul Nolting has accepted a one-year part-time call to teach religion at Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN. <> Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, has received the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN. <> Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Seminarian Sam Radermacher, in conjunction with his vicarship under Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has accepted the summer vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA.

Fruits of Faith		February 22, 2026	Attendance: WH – 24; ORL – 8	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$303.72	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$1,058.28	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over	
\$8,217.72	Year to Date Offerings	\$25.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$10,896.00	Year to Date Need	\$538.48	Year to Date Need	
-\$2,678.28	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$513.48	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
\$50.00	Benevolence	\$10.00	ILC Student Aid	
		\$30.00	Lutheran Spokesman	



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

March 2 – March 7, 2026

Monday - *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus, sent to the lost sheep of Israel, was not out merely to expand His fan-base. Nevertheless, those who come in faith, Jew or Gentile, find access through Him to the mercy seat of God.

Tuesday - *1 Thessalonians 4:1-7*

Redeemed by God's mercy, we will want to live in such a way as is pleasing to God. Keeping away from sexual immorality is not to our harm, but results from our upward call in Christ.

Wednesday - *Isaiah 45:20-25*

The LORD invites us to come together to Him. Turn to Him and be saved, all you ends of the earth (verse 22). There is no God except He, a righteous God and Savior (verse 21).

Thursday - *Psalms 35:1-18*

Enemies of the LORD'S servant are enemies of the LORD. The prayer for God's help is repeated (1-8,9-18), asking that the enemies be driven away and that life might be once again restored (verse 17).

Friday - *Psalms 35:19-28*

Yet a third time the LORD's servant prays for help against false accusations and mockery. He foresees friends saying, "The LORD is great. He takes delight in the peace of his servant" (verse 27).

Saturday - *Psalms 130*

From out of the depths to the heights of heaven in eight verses. Such a rise is possible because "with the LORD there is mercy. With Him there is abundant redemption" (verse 7). Wait for the LORD!

