

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

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As We Gather

When a loved one passes away, the reading of the will is a solemn occasion. Family members gather, waiting to hear what inheritance has been left behind. Tonight, on this sacred Maundy Thursday, we gather for a reading of a very different kind. Our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, has drawn up a magnificent Last Will and Testament for you. Yet, as the writer to the Hebrews reminds us, a will only takes effect when a death has occurred. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. As we prepare to receive the Lord's Supper, we come to hear the terms of this divine estate. What priceless inheritance has your Savior left to you? Prepare your hearts to find out.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

164 – 'Twas on That Dark, That Doleful Night

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Ephesians 1:7; Psalm 111:9; Revelation 1:5b-6

P In Him we have redemption through His blood,

C **The forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.**

P He has sent redemption to His people;

C **He has commanded His covenant forever.**

P To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father,

C **To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! As we gather on this holy evening, our minds are drawn toward the upper room and the shadows of Gethsemane. Our Lord instituted a new covenant because the old covenant was broken by our rebellion. Our consciences are stained by our failure to love God with our whole heart and our neighbors as ourselves. We bring the heavy burden of our guilt to this place, knowing that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission for our sin. 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, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have broken Your covenant and pursued our own selfish ways. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Cleanse our consciences, forgive our sins, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through the shedding of His own precious blood, Jesus Christ has sealed a new and everlasting covenant for your eternal redemption. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 ✠

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

Exodus 24:3-11

³ So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." ⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶ And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be

obedient.”⁸ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.”⁹ Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel,¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity.¹¹ But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 116:12-19

- P** What shall I render to the LORD
- C** **For all His benefits toward me?**
- P** I will take up the cup of salvation,
- C** **And call upon the name of the LORD.**
- P** I will pay my vows to the LORD
- C** **Now in the presence of all His people.**
- P** Precious in the sight of the LORD
- C** **Is the death of His saints.**
- P** O LORD, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant;
- C** **You have loosed my bonds.**
- P** I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
- C** **And will call upon the name of the LORD.**
- P** I will pay my vows to the LORD
- C** **Now in the presence of all His people,**
- P** In the courts of the LORD’s house,
- C** **In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷ Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”¹⁸ And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.” ’ ”¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.²⁰ When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.²¹ Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”²² And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it I?”²³ He answered and said, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.”²⁴ The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have

been good for that man if he had not been born.”²⁵ Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?” He said to him, “You have said it.”²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.”²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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

156 – Not All the Blood of Beasts

¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. ¹⁶ For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." ²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.



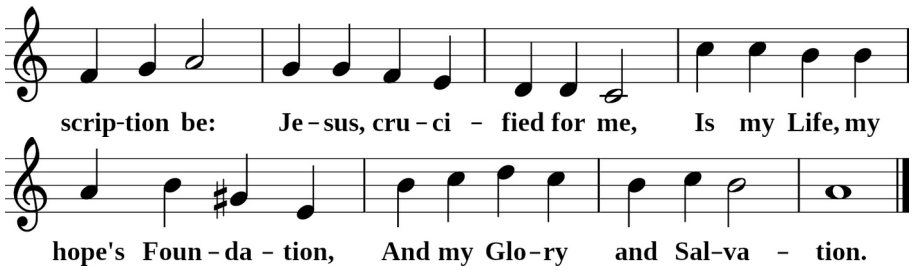
Sermon

The Reading of the Will

Offertory

TLH 179 – On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

On my heart im - print Thine im - age, Bless-ed Je - sus,
 King of Grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea-sures
 Have no pow'r Thee to ef - face. This the su - per -



scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my Life, my
 hope's Foun - da - tion, And my Glo - ry and Sal - va - tion.

Hymn 163 (1-4, 9) – The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

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** It is 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 magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho -
san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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 Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -



tain with Your mer-cy and grant us Your peace.

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



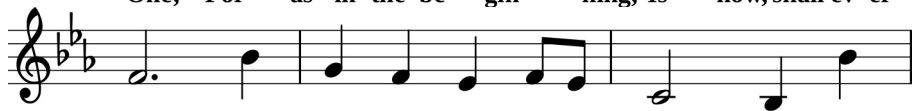
O Lord, now let Your ser- vant De- part in heav'n-ly
All glo- ry to the Fa- ther, All glo- ry to the



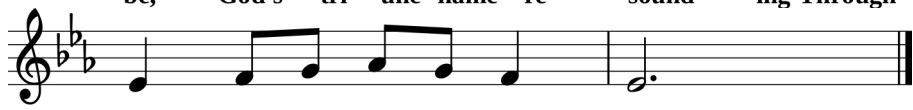
peace, For I have seen the glo- ry Of Your re- deem- ing
Son, All glo- ry to the Spir- it, For- ev- er Three- in-



grace: A light to lead the Gen- tiles Un- to Your ho-ly
One; For as in the be- gin- ning, Is now, shall ev-er



hill, The glo- ry of Your peo- ple, Your
be, God's tri- une name re- sound- ing Through



cho- sen Is- ra- el.
all e- ter- ni- ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Thanksgiving

My heart has now be come Your dwell ing, O bless ed ho-ly Trin-i-
ty. With an-gels I, Your prais-es tell - ing, Shall live in
joy e - ter-nal - ly. Lord, may Your bod - y and Your
blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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, 5-6) – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

April 2	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 3	7:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
April 5	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
April 10	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
April 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **May 3** – Education/Elders
- **June 7** – Trustees/Church Council

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 Good Friday: We love to celebrate victories with cheering crowds and pristine trophies. But the greatest victory in human history was won in blood and agony. This Friday, we gather to witness “The Ugliest Victory.” Looking at the cross through the eyes of Isaiah 52 and 53, we see a Savior who had “no beauty that we should desire Him.” He was despised, rejected, and battered beyond recognition. Yet, beneath the gruesome surface of Calvary lies the most beautiful truth for us sinners: “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.” Join us as we stand at the foot of the cross to marvel at the agonizing, ugly, and perfectly complete victory that secured our salvation.

Looking Forward to Sunday: Have you ever noticed how much time we spend looking down? We stare at the dirt of our daily struggles, the heavy mess of our sins, and ultimately, the dust of the grave. But next Sunday is Easter! The stone is rolled away. Why keep looking down when the tomb is empty? Join us as we celebrate the triumphant bodily resurrection of our Lord. Our sermon, "Stop Staring at the Dirt!", is based on Colossians 3:1-4. Because Jesus lives, the Apostle Paul urges us to "seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God." It is time to lift our eyes from the dust of death to the glory of eternal life! Christ is risen!

ILC Dorm Supervisor: Jaqi Bredehoft will be resigning as girls dorm supervisor at the end of this school year. We thank her for her faithful service to the LORD and for being such a positive role model to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for this position to begin the 2026-27 school year. This role is vital to our campus, given how dorm supervisors provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Females 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.) 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 15.

CLC News: Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Teacher Noah Ohlmann of Grace Ev. Lutheran School, Valentine, NE, has returned the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Dr. Daniel Sullivan has accepted 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. <> Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has received the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Teacher Lane Fischer of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN, has received the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI.

