



Holy Communion

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church ♦ A Living Sanctuary of Hope and Grace

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world
who will be baptized at the Vigil of Easter. In today's gospel
Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit.*

At the font we are given a new birth as children of God.

*As God made a covenant with Abraham,
in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life.
From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

*Al
congregarse*

Gathering

*The carillon is rung and calls all to a time of silence in preparation for worship.
Prayers for this time are found on pg. 72 in the front of the hymnal.*

*The Holy
Spirit gathers
us in unity on
the first day
of the week,
the day of
Christ's
resurrection.*

Prelude

What Wondrous Love
(Variations on a Shape-Note Hymn, Op. 34)

- Samuel Barber

Call To Worship

Gathering Song

What Wondrous Love

#666

Greeting

Response: And also with you.

Palabra

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, song, and silence.

The meditation bell calls us to a time of silent reflection as we continue to listen for God speaking through the scriptures.

Prayer of the Day

The assembly is seated.

Word

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 121

The left (pulpit) side of the assembly sings the odd-numbered verses in bold. The right (lectern) side of the assembly sings the verses in plain text.

Psalm tone:



- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;**
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved**
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 the Lord watches over you;**
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will preserve you from all evil**
and will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forever more.

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Choir, then all



Glo - ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Proper verse: The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

The refrain is repeated.

Gospel

John 3:1-17

At the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn of the Day

All Who Believe and are Baptized

#442

An ancient practice at the announcement of the gospel is to make a sign of the cross on the forehead, the lips, and the heart, that the good news may be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

Affirmation of Faith

The Immigrant's Creed

**I believe in Almighty God,
who guided the people in exile and in exodus,
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,
the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
a displaced Galilean,
who was born away from his people and his home,
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger,
and returning to his own country suffered the oppression
of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power,
who then was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured,
accused and condemned to death unjustly.
But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead,
not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries,
and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the church is the secure home
for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it,
who speak the same language and have the same purpose.**

**I believe that the communion of the saints begins
when we accept the diversity of the saints.**

**I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal,
and in reconciliation, which identifies us more
than does race, language, or nationality.**

**I believe that in the resurrection
God will unite us as one people
in which all are distinct
and all are alike at the same time.**

**Beyond this world, I believe in life eternal
in which no one will be an immigrant
but all will be citizens of God's kingdom,
which will never end. Amen.**

The Immigrant's Creed is a contemporary Christian confession written by the Rev. José Luis Casal, a Cuban immigrant and church leader, focusing on faith through the lens of displacement and the theological mandate to welcome the stranger. It frames Jesus as a refugee, advocating for unity, justice, and solidarity with immigrants.

Prayers of Intercession

Each portion of the prayers ends:

...let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,**

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us

through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love

and serve only your will.

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

Peace

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words. Then the assembly is seated for the congregational announcements.

The placement of Confession and Forgiveness in the center of the liturgy during the season of Lent, heightens its importance during this penitential season.

Cena

God feeds us
with the
presence of
Jesus Christ.

Meal

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Loose offerings go to Care For Real, Edgewater's food pantry. The choir makes an offering of music.

God So Loved the World

- Eugene Englert

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should have everlasting life. God did not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world might be saved through Him. I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. This is my commandment, that you love one another, love one another as I have loved you. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours, that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete.

The assembly stands as the gifts are presented.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

#186

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, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The *Holy* used during Lent is adapted from Franz Schubert's *Deutsche Messe* of 1827. Austrian physicist Johann Phillip Neumann commissioned the mass. He desired simple music for the Catholic liturgy that would appeal to the "widest possible congregation."

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Thanksgiving continues with the preface; the assembly responds:

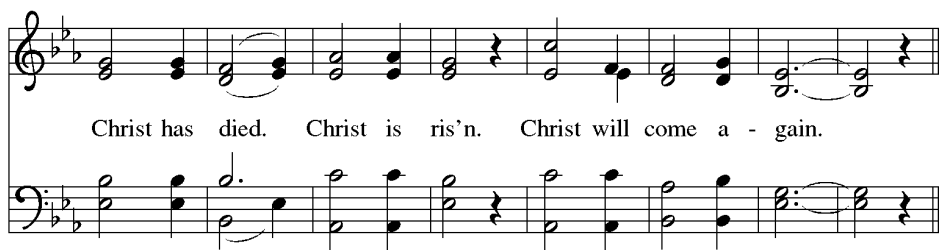
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Thanksgiving includes this acclamation and a sung Amen:



Christ has died. Christ is ris'n. Christ will come a - gain.



A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The Great Thanksgiving concludes:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Communion

All who desire communion are welcome at Christ's table. People may come forward to the rail for communion. Bread is received in the hands. Wine may be received by the pouring chalice into individual cups. You may also reverence the presence of Christ in the chalice with a solemn bow. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. People choosing not to commune are invited forward for a blessing and may indicate so by folding hands across the chest.

Lamb of God

#199

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

As We Eat This Bread

Singing in Community #4

As we eat this bread and we drink this cup, we're be -
com-ing the bod - y of Christ. Come and fill our hearts so we'll
dream your dreams and your king-dom will come through our lives.

Bread of Life From Heaven

#474

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

Creator of all, Savior of all, Spirit in all, one God in perfect community,

Stay with us now.

Where there is apathy,

kindle the flame of your love.

Where there is deceit,

confront every lie with your truth.

Where there is hopelessness,

reveal deep wells of compassion.

Where there is joy,

let your kindly protection be known.

Where we hesitate to serve you,

make us restless until we change.

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

Envío

*God blesses
us and sends
us in mission
for the life of
the world.*

We are sent forth
to continue in the
disciplines of
Lent: self-
examination and
repentance,
prayer and
fasting, sacrificial
giving and works
of love.

Sending

Blessing

The light of God to lead us. The power of God to hold us.
The joy of God to heal us. The grace of God to caress us.
The love of God to bless us, † now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song

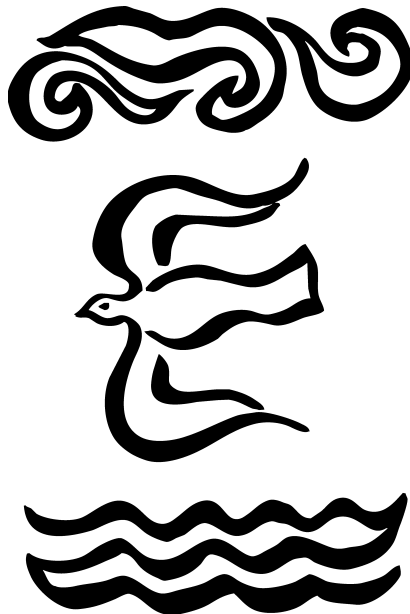
Blessed Assurance

#638

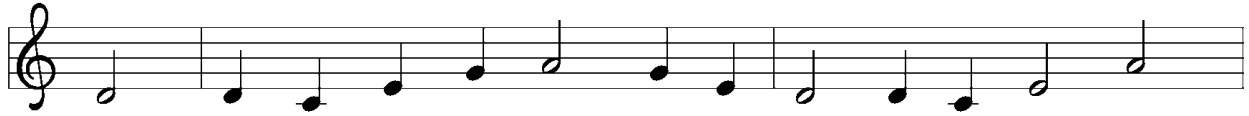
Dismissal

Response: Thanks be to God.

As part of our Lenten fasting, no postludes will be played during Lent.



GATHERING SONG—What Wondrous Love (#666)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

HYMN OF THE DAY– All Who Believe and are Baptized (#442)



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized shall see the Lord's sal -
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray, grant us your Ho - ly



va - tion; bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a
Spir - it; help us in our in - fir - mi - ty through Je - sus'



new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they will stand a -
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day by



mong the glo - rious heav'n-ly band of ev-'ry tribe and na - tion.
ho - ly bap - tism, that we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

COMMUNION HYMN— Bread of Life From Heaven (#474)

Refrain



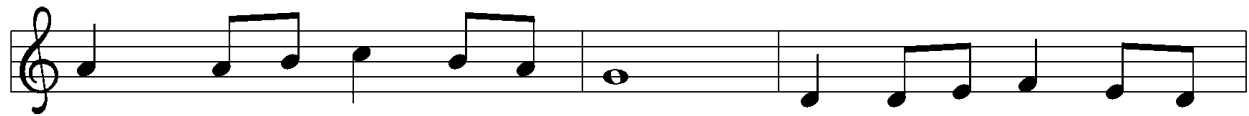
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|------|-------|------|------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Break | now | the | bread | of | Christ's | sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek | not | the | food | that | will | pass | a - way; |
| 3 | Love | as | the | one | who, | in | love | for |
| 4 | Dwell | in | the | one | who | now | dwells | in |
| 5 | Drink | of | this | cup | and | de - clare | his | death; |
| | | | | | | | | eat |
| | | | | | | | | this |



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one
home	in	the	life - giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly		
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,	with	



sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres - ence	the	loaves	will	a - bound.
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full - ness	of	life	may
food	for	you,	that	your	hun - ger	and	thirst
One	of	God,	and	be - lieve	in	the	truth
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you
							are
							re - born.

Refrain

SENDING SONG—Blessed Assurance (#638)



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

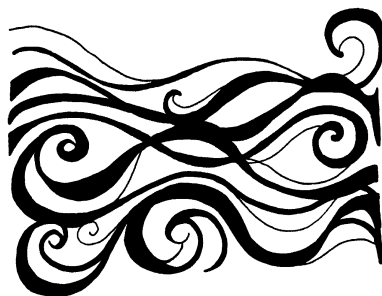
In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



Readings for the Week

Monday—Wednesday reflect on the previous Sunday's readings.

Thursday—Saturday prepare for next Sunday.

Monday Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6

Tuesday Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13

Wednesday Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53—8:11

Thursday Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23

Friday Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22

Saturday Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6

Sunday Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

The Value to Being in Community

One of the many advantages of being part of a community — in this case, the church — is that you don't have to do it all alone.

For example, on any particular Sunday...

...if you, for any reason are unable to pray, the assembly prays with and for you.

...if you, for any reason, cannot stand, the assembly stands for you.

...if you, for any reason, cannot sing, the assembly sings for you.

...if you, for any reason, are unsure about what you believe, the assembly voices the faith of the church.

Being in community is a blessing. In so doing, we become the body of Christ in all its rich diversity.

suddenly angels came and waited on him.



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WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

We rejoice that diversity in God's creation enriches, nurtures, and challenges our life together as followers of Jesus Christ and as servants to the world.

Because we believe that God's grace is truly amazing, we are committed to welcoming all people to this place. No matter where you come from, no matter what age, race, socio-economic or family status, no matter what gender identity or sexual orientation, you are welcome here.

Grace is for everyone or it isn't grace. It's that simple, it's that amazing!

