



*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*  
*with Holy Communion*  
*Immanuel Lutheran Church*  
*February 22, 2026*

**Welcome** to this place of praise and prayer. We gather today in celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as part of God's family.

- ❖ We would appreciate having you sign our guest book so that we can remember your presence with us. Please note that in the ELW the page numbers are printed at the bottom of the page and hymn numbers are located at the top. The order of worship is outlined on the following pages.
- ❖ The offering reminds us that all of life is a gift of God. We are stewards of that gift. In response, a portion of our income is given as an act of worship to do God's work in the world. Immanuel is a first-fruits congregation. That means that every Sunday when the offering is taken in, we give first to the mission and the ministry of the ELCA. We don't wait to see if we can pay our bills before we give away for God's mission. It is our hands doing God's work, for the sake of the world our Lord loves.
- ❖ We serve Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and at all festivals. We offer an open invitation to all baptized believers to participate. It is our understanding that Christ offers his body and blood with the bread and wine to forgive sin and strengthen faith and life. If you receive communion in your home church, you are welcome to receive communion here.
- ❖ We have a toddler worship area in the middle-right section of our pews. This area is intended for children ages 0-3 accompanied by an adult(s) to sit during worship. Children 4K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade are welcome to join us for Sunday school during worship downstairs. This is a space for families to be fully engaged in worship, while providing quiet activities for young children to accommodate their natural need to move and be busy. Please follow posted guidelines for use of this space. Thank you!
- ❖ We have accommodated seating available in the middle-left and the front-right sections of our pews. Please feel free to utilize this space for those who may need it!

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**FIND US ONLINE**



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[www.lacrosseareasyndod.org](http://www.lacrosseareasyndod.org)

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Prelude

### Welcome And Worship Announcements

\*Please note all **bold** text throughout the service are congregational responses

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### Confession And Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.  
*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water  
Christ offers:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn**

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

**#326**

### **Dialogue**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

The word is near you.

**On your lips and in your heart.**

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord

**And believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Faith comes from what is heard,

**And what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

### **Lenten Hymn**

*Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

**#321**

## Prayer Of The Day

Lord God, **our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Sunday School Song

*Let's Trust in Jesus*

**Noisy Offering** (*noisy offering collected will be going towards the Caledonia Food Shelf*)

**Sunday School Dismissal** (Children may be dismissed to Sunday school)

## THE WORD

### First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it. <sup>16</sup> But the LORD told him, "You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden, <sup>17</sup> except the one that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong. If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over!"

<sup>1</sup> The snake was sneakier than any of the other wild animals that the Lord God had made. One day it came to the woman and asked, "Did God tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" <sup>2</sup> The woman answered, "God said we could eat fruit from any tree in the garden, <sup>3</sup> except the one in the middle. He told us not to eat fruit from that tree or even to touch it. If we do, we will die."

<sup>4</sup> "No, you won't!" the snake replied. <sup>5</sup> "God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree. You will see what you have done, and you will know the difference between right and wrong, just as God does."

<sup>6</sup> The woman stared at the fruit. It looked beautiful and tasty. She wanted the wisdom that it would give her, and she ate some of the fruit. Her husband was there with her, so she gave some to him, and he ate it too. <sup>7</sup> At once they saw what they had done,

and they realized they were naked. Then they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup> Adam sinned, and that sin brought death into the world. Now everyone has sinned, and so everyone must die. <sup>13</sup> Sin was in the world before the Law came. But no record of sin was kept, because there was no Law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death still had power over all who lived from the time of Adam to the time of Moses. This happened, though not everyone disobeyed a direct command from God, as Adam did.

In some ways Adam is like Christ who came later. <sup>15</sup> But the gift of God's undeserved grace was very different from Adam's sin. That one sin brought death to many others. Yet in an even greater way, Jesus Christ alone brought God's gift of undeserved grace to many people.

<sup>16</sup> There is a lot of difference between Adam's sin and God's gift. That one sin led to punishment. But God's gift made it possible for us to be acceptable to him, even though we have sinned many times. <sup>17</sup> Death ruled like a king because Adam had sinned. But that cannot compare with what Jesus Christ has done. God has treated us with undeserved grace, and he has accepted us because of Jesus. And so we will live and rule like kings.

<sup>18</sup> Everyone was going to be punished because Adam sinned. But because of the good thing that Christ has done, God accepts us and gives us the gift of life. <sup>19</sup> Adam disobeyed God and caused many others to be sinners. But Jesus obeyed him and will make many people acceptable to God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 4. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**  
*(Congregation may be seated)*

**Sermon**

**Hymn Of The Day (With Intro)**

*When We Are Tested*

**Music on Page 8 of Bulletin**

# When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**Back Cover of Hymn**

### **Prayers Of The People**

The response to each prayer will be, "God of grace,"

Congregation reply will be, "**Hear our prayer.**"

### **Sharing Of The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*You are welcome to send a text or email to share peace with others.*

## **OFFERING**

*(Offerings may be placed in the wooden offering box as you leave the sanctuary)*

### **Offering Response**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**#186**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

### **Offering Prayer**

**O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### **Great Thanksgiving (Spoken)**

**Page 144**

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.**

Holy, Holy, Holy #190

Words Of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Jesus, Lamb Of God (With Intro) #199

Distribution Of Communion

Communion Hymns

*When Peace Like a River* #785

*On Eagle's Wings* #787

*God of the Sparrow* #740

Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

### SENDING

*God Blesses Us And Sends Us In Mission To The World.*

Benediction

Announcements

Sending Hymn #437

*On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand*

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to Today's Volunteers!

We would love to have your help during our worship service. Please sign up at the kiosk in the church narthex or on the church website under the sign-up link on the home page. Thank you!

**Greeters:** Brayden Klug & Chloe Kruse

**Ushers:** Dave Renslo & Dean Schutte

**Reader:** Sunday School Youth

**Presentation Clicker:** Sunday School Youth

**Live Stream:** Jeff Babinski

**Acolytes:** Sunday School

**Coffee and Refreshments:** Sunday School

**Communion Servers:** Mary Frank

## ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

### **Church Rummage sale coming up!!!**

**Sale dates are March 11, 12, 13 with set up starting March 8.**

We will take any of your help you can offer starting after church on Sunday March 8. All day March 9 and 10 for set up. Then any time you can offer for sale dates. Each sale we get people who say they would love to help but are just unable. We all understand this - life happens. We want to help yet our job or family determine otherwise. I would like to offer some things you can do to help even if you think you can't help

First - bring donations. **But make sure they are clean and usable.**

Don't bring things that should just get thrown away. We always end up with bags of trash and have generous volunteers who take what they can to their own home trash can to ease the trash amount on the church.

Separate your items out. Kitchen from books from clothing.

If you are bringing clothing donations - simply make sure they are **clean** and right side out.

If you are bringing small people clothes - separate them out into size bags. Even better band together sets so our volunteers know what goes together.

Label sheets and bedding with proper size.

Offer to bring others people's donations in for them if you can. We always have a handful of people who cannot bring in their own donations. Helping them out helps the greater cause.

And simply help spread the word.

This project is really a community service project. It is self-sufficient and does its best to not make anything a financial hardship on the church. A portion of the sales are taken off the top right away and sent to the general fund to offset the additional expenses of electricity.

Printing. And anything else used from the facility.

The rummage sale also funds the community service project of God's Work Our Hands.

Any questions can be answered by Pricilla Jacobson, Grace Mikula or Tricia Babinski. You can email [tricia@jtbabinski.us](mailto:tricia@jtbabinski.us) if that is easier for you.

Thank you so much for your continued support to the church rummage sale.

## Immanuel Lutheran Scholarships

College Scholarship Applications are now available! Calling all Graduating High School Seniors, Families, along with all college students who are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church.



Immanuel has three different scholarships you may apply for:

1. Immanuel Lutheran/Elmer & Doris Anderson Scholarship
2. Leland Schulze Scholarship
3. Thrivent Choice Dollars Scholarship

Each scholarship has a separate application, but are all similar in content. Confirmed members of Immanuel may apply for each scholarship up to two times. Applications have been mailed to all Immanuel seniors and all college students who have previously applied and are still eligible. Applications are also available in the church office and on the church website ([www.immanuelcaledonia.org](http://www.immanuelcaledonia.org)). Applications are due to the church office **no later than April 1, 2026.**

Applications will be reviewed by the Immanuel Scholarship Committee. After April 1, first time applicants will be invited to participate in a “meet and greet” session with the scholarship committee.

Presentation of scholarships will take place on Senior Recognition Sunday in April or May with the time still to be determined.