



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
AVILLA, INDIANA
GOD WITH US**

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9:30 AM

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE – PAGE 151

HYMN No. 907 - God Himself Is Present

1 God Himself is present:

Let us now adore Him

And with awe appear before Him.

God is in His temple;

All within keep silence;

Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.

He alone

On His throne

Is our God and Savior;

Praise His name forever!

2 God Himself is present:

Hear the harps resounding;

See the hosts the throne surrounding.

“Holy, holy, holy!”

Hear the hymn ascending,

Songs of saints and angels blending.

**Bow Your ear
To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your Church now raises.**

**3 Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels,
Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will
Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.**

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful 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 not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

INTROIT – Psalm 27:4-6

P: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C: **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

P: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

C: **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

P: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

C: **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

P: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

C: **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: **and to the Holy Spirit;**

P: as it was in the beginning,

C: **is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C: **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray

C: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 42:14–21

*¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.*

*¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.*

*¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.*

*I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.*

*¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”*

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle - Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

*“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse for Lent



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel – John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like

him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why,

this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹*We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.* ³²*Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.* ³³*If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.* ³⁴*They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.*

³⁵*Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"* ³⁶*He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"* ³⁷*Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."* ³⁸*He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.* ³⁹*Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."* ⁴⁰*Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?"* ⁴¹*Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 421 - Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.**

- 2** Should some lust or sharp temptation
Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,”
That the tempter flee confounded.
- 3** If the world my heart entices
With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.
- 4** Ev’ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I’m faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev’ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul’s salvation.
- 5** O my God, my rock and tower,
Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

SERMON

Text: Ephesians 5:8–14

Theme: Call To Remember – Call To Action

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

(there is a time for silent prayer)

After each petition

P: Lord, in Your mercy

C: hear our prayer

At the conclusion of the prayer:

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



C A - men.

HYMN No. 805 - Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**△ 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
Text: Public domain

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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WELCOME - We welcome all worshippers to our services at Immanuel this week. As God comes to us in Word and in Sacrament may we experience His love and His power in the singing of praise and the living of our lives to His glory.

VISITORS - Welcome all visitors this week. Be sure to pick up a visitor packet from an usher or from our Information Rack in the east entrance.

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP PADS -ALL members and visitors are asked to record their attendance at church and communion. Please return the record to the center aisle.

SERVICE ENLARGEMENTS, LARGE PRINT HYMNS & ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES - are now available for the service each week. It will include the service, hymns, and the insert of readings. They will be available at both entrances next to the bulletins. Please return them after the service.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TOTES - are available at both entrances for children age kindergarten and younger. Please return them after the service.

NURSERY - Exit the southeast door, the nursery is the third door at the bottom of the stairs. The first door is the lounge where you may listen to the service on the speaker.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the educational rooms of the fellowship hall wing.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the west Sunday school room. They are looking deeper into the Lessons of the Day for that Sunday Service. All are invited to attend.

CHURCH OFFICE - If you need to meet, speak, or make an appointment with the Church Secretary the office is open on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you need to meet or speak to Pastor Kuhlman you can always reach him on his cell and at his home. **Please note that the church will be locked at all times unless two people are present.**

AVILLA FOOD PANTRY - Please do not forget the needy people in our community. You may place your food donations in the box in the east entrance.

BULLETIN BOARD - Cross Connection; Worship for Shut-Ins

FLOWERS – The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Joan Householder in memory of mom, Doris.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

- Wednesday – Lenten Service 7 PM

PRAYER LIST- Prayer for the sick & recovering: Angie Hareidk, Don Norden, Paul DeLong, Amos DeLong, LaVon Graft, young relative of a church member who is suffering mentally and parents who need wisdom and comfort.

NEWSLETTERS – April newsletter is in your mailbox. May newsletter deadline is April 18th.

RUN HARD. REST WELL! – Are you feeling stressed many days? Are you exhausted before the day is over? Would you like to learn how to refresh yourself? Join us to learn to refill your cup at our Restorative Wellness program powered by Run Hard, Rest Well. The goal is to learn ways to Refill ourselves Back Up in ways that are fun, healthy, and life-giving. The class will be offered on Saturday, March 25th from 10 am – 2 pm. A light lunch will be served. Open to everyone 16 years and up. Invite a friend of family member. Child care will be provided. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP by March 23rd to 260-637-3625. Sponsored by Our Hope Lutheran Church and School, 1826 Trinity Dr, Hometown, IN

EASTER BREAKFAST - A sign-up sheet for Easter Breakfast is on the table in the east entrance. You have the option of choosing: donating food, set-up, serve, and/or clean up. Any help is appreciated. **There is also a sign-up sheet for specific food items needed. Please sign up if you would like to contribute.**

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN - Registration for summer camp at Lutherhaven has begun! It may not seem like it, but summer is right around the corner. Have you made plans yet? Camp Lutherhaven has something for everyone. There are programs for kindergarten through High School, as well as some for the whole family! Brochures are on the table in the east entrance. Register online today at www.lutherhaven.org

Again this year there are scholarships available to members of Immanuel. To apply for one just write the child's name, age, camp session attending and the cost. Place this paper on the secretary's desk. Deadline to apply is May 1st. Any questions on the scholarships please speak to Pastor.

SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPERS - We will be serving soup and sandwich suppers prior to our Lenten service on Wednesday's at 6PM. Everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship and good food.

LENTEN SUPPER - A sign-up sheet for Lenten Supper is on the table in the east entrance. We are still in need on someone to prepare supper on March 22.

EASTER FLOWERS - As we have done in past years, we will be placing spring flowering plants around the wood Easter cross.

This year you may order a single lily or bring your own plants to the church anytime before noon on Saturday, April 8th. If you would like to order a lily there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the east entrance. The cost will be \$14.00. We will place a slip of paper with your name on it in your pot. If you bring your own plants, be sure to write your name on a slip of paper and place it in the flower pot so you can take it home after the late service or at your earliest convenience.

LENTEN SERVICES

Seven times He spoke. On Good Friday, Jesus spoke seven times from the cross. He spoke words of forgiveness and promise and accomplishment, plus others. He spoke other words that are filled with meaning for us and our lives, a total of seven words. Each of Jesus statements from the cross teach us about Jesus and His character and His love for us. They help us to see everything Jesus came to be and do for us. This year, midweek lent worship will focus on Jesus' seven words from the cross. The dates and themes are as follows:

- March 22 – He Spoke a Word of Need John 19:28
- March 29 – He Spoke a Word of Accomplishment John 19:30

HOLY WEEK

- **PALM SUNDAY - April 2 - 9:30 AM**

We will celebrate the triumphal entry of our Savior into Jerusalem.

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 6 - 7 PM**

(Holy Communion)

- He Spoke a Word of Invitation - Matthew 26:26-28;
Luke 22:19-20

- **GOOD FRIDAY - April 7 – 7 PM**

- He Spoke a Word of Trust - Luke 23:46

We will remember the crucifixion of Jesus with a Tenebrae Service
(Service of Darkness)

- **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE – April 9 - 9:30 AM**

We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with services of
Holy Communion.

Easter Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM and an Easter Egg
Hunt will follow the morning service.

PORTALS OF PRAYER - Portals of Prayer devotional books for
April-June are available at the back of the church and at the side
entrance.

LOOK UP - Looking Up is your first step to seeing past your
struggles. Mental and behavioral health issues can be a silent
battle. But there's always hope on the horizon. You can start by
looking here for resources, information, and providers.

- <https://lookupindiana.org>
- Call 877-257-0208 - Available 24 hours every day
- Text LookUp to 494949 - Available 24 hours every day

INFORMATION RACK- last week's bulletin; extra newsletters;
Visitors Packet; Portals of Prayer; Lutheran Witness; Cross
Connection; Thrivent Dollars information; Lutherans for Life.

WEEKLY SERVICE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS are now on our website. The service can be found under Family Altar. The announcements in the bulletin each week can be seen on our website **under Blog and then correct month.**

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS:

Worship Attendance:

- Sunday Morning: 53 + Jesus
- Wednesday Lenten Service: 30 + Jesus

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – To move forward with Christ is to love God.

ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUPS

- Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana
<https://mhanortheastindiana.org>
260-422-6441; info@mhanortheastindiana.org

Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana offers a free anxiety and depression support group on Wednesdays at 6 P.M. No formal diagnosis is required. The group is currently meeting via Zoom. Email Lacey Holt to sign up at: lholt@mhanortheastindiana.org

- Mental Health Grace Alliance
<https://mentalhealthgracealliance.org/your-personal-journey>

Mental Health Grace Alliance offers Bible study books that combine relevant Bible studies, neuroscience, and practical tools to help those experiencing a mental health difficulty to manage stressors, increase calm through rest and joy, reframe negative thoughts and nurture healthy relationships. These books are best used in small groups. *Living Grace* is a 16-week study for adults, and *Redefine Grace* is a 10-week study for high school and college age students. Materials are available online.

- NAMI Fort Wayne
<https://www.namifortwayne.org>
260-447-8990; faithnet@namifortwayne.org

NAMI Ft. Wayne provides free support groups for those living with mental illness and also for adult family and friends of people living with mental illness. Call the NAMI Ft. Wayne office to find out their current meeting schedule.