

"One  
thing I do  
know. I WAS  
BLIND  
BUT NOW  
I SEE."

JOHN 9:25, NIV

**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

As we gather together for worship today, we are reminded of the miraculous power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through the story of the blind man who receives his sight from Jesus in John 9, we witness the transformative power of Christ's love and mercy. We are called to examine our own spiritual blindness, to confess our need for God's grace, and to seek the healing and sight that only comes through faith in Jesus. As we come together to worship, let us open our hearts to receive the life-giving power of the Gospel, and may our worship be a time of drawing closer to God and responding to his call to love and serve others.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

536 – Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

#### Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

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

**C** Amen.

#### Opening Sentences

Psalms 34:8; Isaiah 42:16

**P** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;

**C** Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

**P** I will bring the blind by a way they did not know;

**C** I will lead them in paths they have not known.

**P** I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight.

**C** These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.

#### Confession and Absolution

**P** Dear friends in Christ, let us confess our sins before God, acknowledging that we are in need of His forgiveness and mercy.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinners who have fallen short of Your glory. We have been blinded by our own pride and selfishness, and have failed to see the needs of those around us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor have we always been faithful to Your Word. We ask for Your forgiveness and pray that You would heal our spiritual blindness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- P** Hear the good news! By His death and resurrection, Jesus has given us His forgiveness and granted us new life in Him. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## ✠ Service of the Word ✠

### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 27:7-14

- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!
- C** **Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.**
- P** When You said, “Seek My face,”
- C** **My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”**
- P** Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger;
- C** **You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.**
- P** When my father and my mother forsake me,
- C** **Then the LORD will take care of me.**
- P** Teach me Your way, O LORD,
- C** **And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.**
- P** Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries;
- C** **For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.**
- P** I would have lost heart, unless I had believed
- C** **That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.**
- P** Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart;
- C** **Wait, I say, on the LORD!**



## Gloria Patri

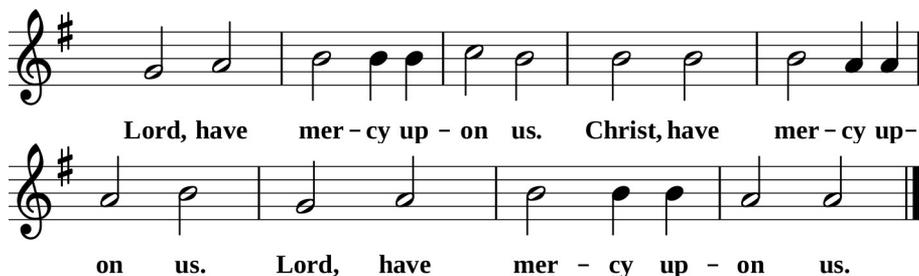
Glory be to the Father



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.

## Kyrie

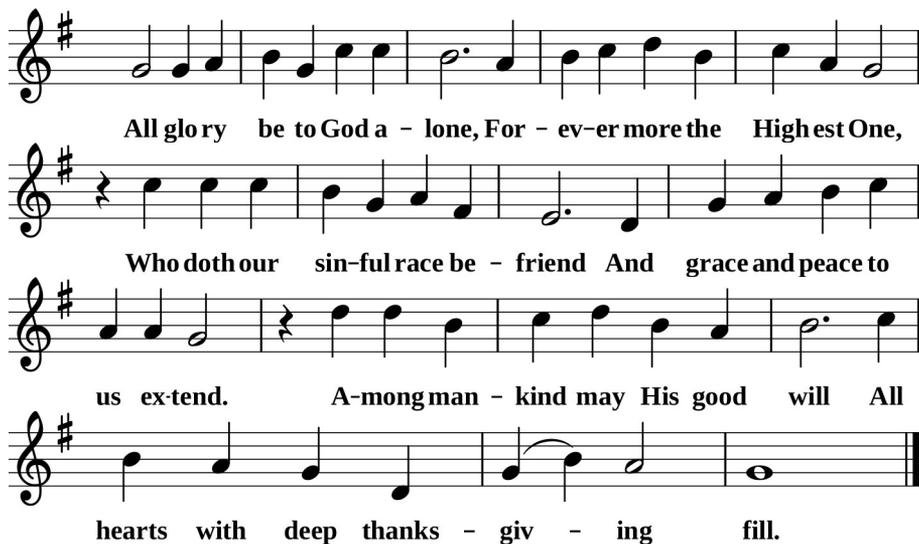
Lord, Have Mercy



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on High - Hymn 238, st. 1



All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev - er more the Highest One,  
Who doth our sin - ful race be - friend And grace and peace to  
us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may His good will All  
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

## 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

Isaiah 42:14-21

<sup>14</sup> “I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. <sup>15</sup> I will lay waste the mountains and hills, And dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, And I will dry up the pools. <sup>16</sup> I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them. <sup>17</sup> They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, ‘You are our gods.’ <sup>18</sup> “Hear, you deaf; And look, you blind, that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Who is blind but My servant, Or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is blind as he who is perfect, And blind as the LORD’s servant? <sup>20</sup> Seeing many things, but you do not observe; Opening the ears, but he does not hear.” <sup>21</sup> The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable.

## Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), <sup>10</sup> finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup> But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. <sup>14</sup> Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

## Response

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

**C** Amen.

## Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

## Hymn

388 – Just as I Am, without One Plea

## Sermon Text

John 9:1-7,13-17, 34-39

<sup>1</sup> Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. <sup>7</sup> And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. <sup>13</sup> They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup> Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” <sup>34</sup> They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” <sup>36</sup> He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” <sup>37</sup> And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” <sup>38</sup> Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him. <sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into

this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”



*Sermon*

## The Answer to the Why

I. Our Questions

II. Jesus' Answer

### Offertory

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 un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion;  
and uphold me with Your free spir - it. A - men.

### Hymn

512 – O Christ, Our True and Only Light



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee  
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;  
With the sunshine of Thy goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by Thee, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.

## Prayer of the Church

### 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.

## 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

777 – Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound

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## ✠ Announcements ✠

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Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in our Savior's name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us this morning, and hope that you will come back and join us again. It is our prayer that your faith will be strengthened by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns that our Scripture-based liturgy offers. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please ask Pastor Sauers.

### Upcoming Schedule

March 19	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	11:15 am	Trustees/Sign Committee; Council
March 22	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship Service
March 26	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
April 1	9:00 am	Work Day
April 2	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:15 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting

**Member Visits:** Pastor would like to get to know everyone in the congregation, and to that end, would like to visit with each family individually. These visits are intended as an opportunity for spiritual encouragement and for members to share their concerns, questions, comments, and suggestions. Please find the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and sign up.

**Midweek Lenten Worship:** This year, our midweek Lenten theme is "Chronicles of the King." Throughout this series, we will explore how the kings of Judah are a shadow of Christ, the King of kings who sits upon the throne of David, His Father, forever. We will see how the kings in Chronicles point us to Christ, who fulfills all the kingly promises that the kings of Judah were unable to realize in themselves. This Wednesday, we consider King Joash under the theme: Cleaning House. We hope you will make plans to join us at 6:30 pm.

**Easter Lilies:** Celebrate the joy and beauty of Easter by signing up for Easter lilies! These lovely flowers will enhance the splendor of our Easter worship service, and are available for just \$10 each. Don't miss out on this opportunity to contribute to our Easter celebration. Sign up before April 2<sup>nd</sup> on the sign-up sheet on the organ.

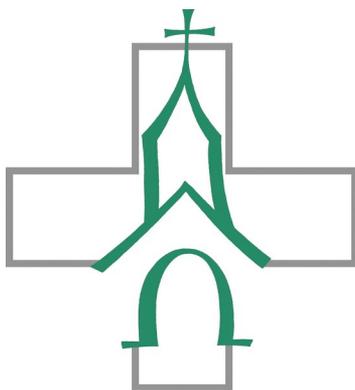
**Christ's Explorers Camp:** Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church (W. Columbia, SC) will be hosting Christ's Explorers Camp July 20th - 23rd in Sevierville, TN. Camp is open to students entering grades 3-9 for the 2023-24 school year. Registration opens on Saturday, April 1st at 9 AM (EST). Registrations will be limited to the first 25 boys and 25 girls. You may register online at christsexplorerscamp.com.

**CLC Call News:** Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church of Middleton, WI has decided to re-open its Christian day school for Fall 2023. They have called Mrs. Leah Ude of Eau Claire, WI as teacher. <> Pastor Luke Bernthal of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA is considering the call to serve as the third pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

<b>Fruits of Faith – March 12, 2023 – Orlando – 11 WH – 22</b>	
Immanuel Home	\$227.27
Building	\$50.00
Missions	\$75.00
ILC Scholarship	\$50.00
Lent	\$92.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$494.25</b>

**✠ Serving Next Weekend ✠**

**Cleaner (3/25):** Custodio      **Acolyte (3/26):** Seth Bernthal



## ✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

### March 20-25

**Monday: John 6:47-57** -- After Jesus fed the 5,000, crowds came to Him looking for more bread (6:26). Jesus offers a better bread, Himself, which will not perish like earthly food, and gives eternal life. Here “eating His flesh” and “drinking His blood” is done by believing Him (v47, also vv29, 35).

**Tuesday: Matthew 27:15-23** -- Pilate believes Jesus to be innocent (v23), but rather than take a stand for righteousness, he seeks to release Jesus by offering the people a choice. Given the chance, our sinful human nature will always make the wrong choice. Jesus, on the other hand, chooses to lay down His life for the sins of the world.

**Wednesday: Matthew 27:24-26** -- Pilate wants to be innocent of Jesus’ blood (v24), showing that he did not think Jesus was worthy of death. The mob does not mind being responsible for His death, not realizing that He dies also for their sin and for everyone else’s in the world. His blood upon us is our salvation (cp1 Jn 1:7).

**Thursday: Matthew 27:27-31** -- During the previous night, Jesus’ captors had mocked and abused Him. Mockery can speak the truth, but not believe it or mean it. Now the Roman soldiers put a robe of royal color on Him, place a crown on His head, a “scepter” in His hand, kneel down and hail Him as “King.” He endures all this in order to lay down His life for us all.

**Friday: 2 Corinthians 7:4-10** -- The apostle had written a letter “with many tears” (2:4) to the Corinthian Christians. Now from Titus he has learned that their response was sorrow unto repentance, unlike the sorrow of some (like Judas) which looks not for forgiveness, but leads to death (cp v10).

**Saturday: Isaiah 52:7-10** -- To the Israelites under Babylonian rulers will come the day when messengers once again announce the rulership of God, the return of the captives, and joyful singing – that is, salvation! It would not be their doing but the Lord’s mighty arm accomplishing this. Such was the joy set before our Savior as He walked the way of the cross for us.

