## Third Sunday in Lent

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025



# Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Lancaster, Pa.

Welcome to worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We believe "Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink." (Small Catechism, Martin Luther) Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward to the altar rail for a blessing. During the Celebration of Holy Communion, we offer two alternatives: a gluten free wafer and grape juice. If you would like the gluten free wafer, please inform the pastor when he/she comes to offer you're the body of Christ. If you would like grape juice, please inform the assisting minister as he/she offers the blood of Christ. Please note you will still need a cup for the grape juice. Any questions please ask an usher.

The worship service for this morning is printed in this booklet. Hymn numbers refer to the hymnal <u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> found in the pew rack.

Are you worshipping with us for the first time? Please use a "Welcome Card" and let us know who you are. If you would like to receive additional information about our congregation, write us a note on the back of the card.

#### **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

540 West Walnut Street Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603 Phone (717) 397-6195 office@elclancpa.org www.elclancpa.org

Pastor: Rev. Timothy W. Sadler, MDiv., RBCC Pastor's Cell: 717-752-5832 pastor@elclancpa.org

Minister of Music: Dr. Rodney Warfield warfieldrodney@gmail.com

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a companion congregation with Mbalizi Lutheran Church in Mbeya, Tanzania, a congregation of the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. We support ELCA missionaries Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson serving in Arusha, Tanzania.

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## A Celebration of Word & Sacrament (Based on Setting 5)

**Bold type** following "C:" is spoken/sung by the congregation.

P = Presiding Pastor

A = Assisting Minister

L = Lector

#### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude in E Minor

by F. Chopin

## † THE GATHERING †

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

Please stand, as you are able.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

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. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.



**GATHERING HYMN:** Eternal Father, Strong to Save

### Eternal Father, Strong to Save



Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt. Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

## **GREETING (ELW p. 147)**

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

C: And also with you.



**KYRIE (ELW P. 147)** 



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#### PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 124)

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

## † THE WORD †

God speaks to us in Scriptures read, sung, and preached.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

L: A reading from Isaiah.

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

- <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

L: The Psalm will be read responsively between Lector and Congregation.

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
  - <sup>2</sup> Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- <sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
  - <sup>4</sup> So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
- <sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
  - <sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
- <sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- <sup>8</sup> My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. Glory to the Father, (+) the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 160)



#### GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

#### Children/Youth/Young-at Heart Story

#### **SERMON**

Time for reflection Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Jesus, Still Lead On

ELW # 624

#### Jesus, Still Lead On



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt. Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

#### NICENE CREED (ELW p. 152)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup>Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition will end with; "God, in your mercy."

Please respond with; "receive our prayer."

#### PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words. A wave or a bow may be preferable to a handshake or hug in light of public health concerns.

Please be seated.

#### **OFFERING**

**ORGAN OFFERTORY** In the Cross of Christ, I Glory by John Scriveyner



## † THE MEAL †

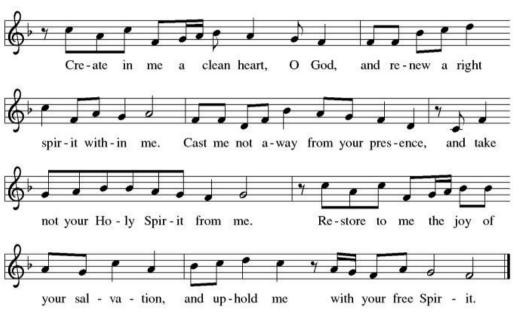
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## THE GATHERING OF GIFTS & PREPARING OF THE TABLE

Please stand, as you are able.

Offertory—ELW p. 186

## Create in Me a Clean Heart Offering Song



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

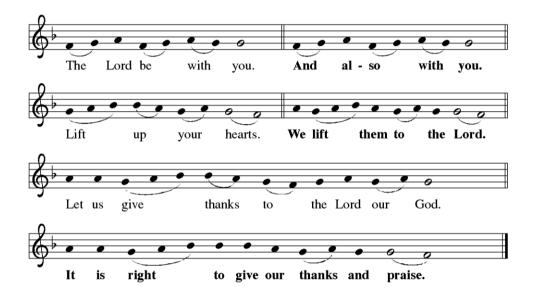
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

A: Let us pray: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

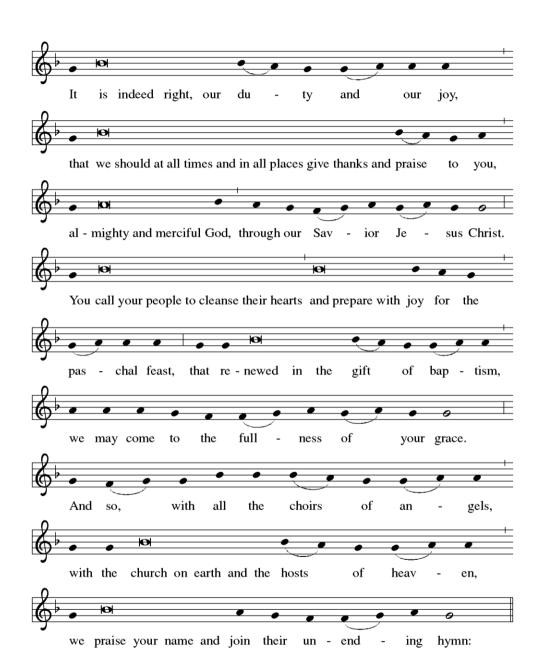
#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### The Dialogue (ELW p. 161)

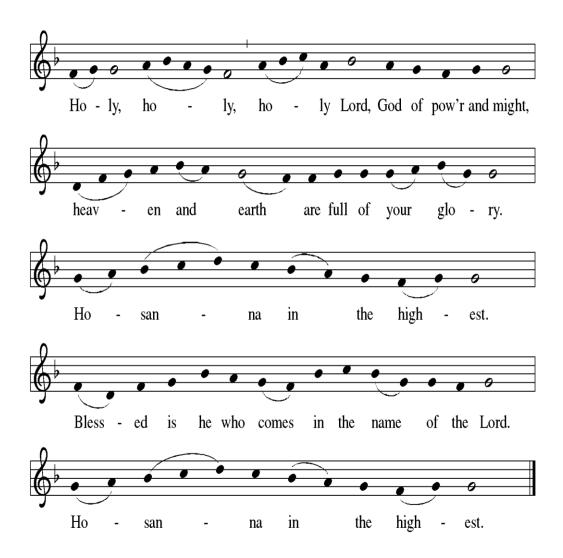


The presiding minister continues:

## Preface (ELW p. 161)



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 162)



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 162)

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness, you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry. our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks. broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 163)

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

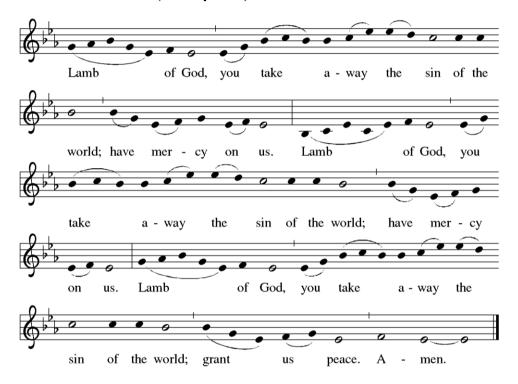


## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God

#### **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 164)**



Please be seated.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We believe "Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink" (Small Catechism, Martin Luther).

The presiding minister may say:

- P: The body of Christ, given for you.
- P: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

#### MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Beautiful Things ACS # 922 There is a Longing in Our Hearts ACS # 1079

#### **HYMN SUNG DURING DISTRIBUTION:**

Rock of Ages ELW # 623

## Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

Please stand, as you are able after all have communed:

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## † THE SENDING †

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

#### BLESSING (ELW p. 164)

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

#### Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**SENDING HYMN:** O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts ELW # 658

## O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt. Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1845

#### **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### Sermon Notes

## The Weekly Messenger

#### **Introduction to the day**

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

## **Weekly Schedule**

Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> Nothing Scheduled*
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> Annunciation of Our Lord*
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> Bible/Book Study*
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 amLenten Hymnody Study*
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> Lite Lenten Luncheon*
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm to 4:00 pmPastor Tim's Office Hours*
Thursday, 27 <sup>th</sup> Nothing Scheduled*
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> Nothing Scheduled*
Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> Nothing Scheduled*
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday School*
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup>
*Every day of the week AA will be meeting from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in the basement of the chapel.

## Attendance for March 16th, 2025

Sunday School—14 Worship—33

## **Today's Worship Team and Volunteers**

Marcus Thomsen
Christianah Alagbe & Gini Horn
Diane Ehemann
George Ehemann
Bill Hannegan
Deb Barrett & Mark Moffett
Mary Kay Mulcahy
Tom Lyman



#### Blessed by God+++Grounded in Faith+++Serving in Love

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please read as there are weekly changes and additions.

#### **Sunday Morning Adult Class**

Keith Frey continues to lead: Entering the Passion by Amy-Jill Levine.

#### **Parish Helper Deadline**

The deadline for the May Parish Helper is *Tuesday*, *April 15*, *2025*. Please use <u>Parish Helper or PH</u> in the email subject line.

#### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

The current Sunday morning worship schedule starts with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m., followed by Sunday Worship at 10:15 a.m. After worship everyone is invited to enjoy Coffee in the back of the Sanctuary.

#### Greetings

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words. A wave or a bow may be preferable to a handshake or hug in light of public health concerns.

#### **Weekly Messenger Announcement Deadline**

The weekly bulletin is printed the Wednesday before the Sunday that it is used. The deadline for the announcements will be Tuesdays. Please, have all information emailed to the office with 'Weekly Messenger' in the subject line. Thank you. Office@elclancpa.org

#### **Hospital Visitations**

If you or someone you know from this congregation is admitted to a local or regional hospital, please contact the pastor or the church office immediately. No longer can we rely on hospitals to notify us for the hospital admissions. Pastor Tim at 717-752-5832 or church office.

#### **Office Schedule**

The office continues to be open on Wednesdays, 9:00-2:00.

Please feel free to take the bulletin home. Bulletins returned to the basket will be recycled.

#### **Easter Flower Order Form**

If you would like to sponsor flowers for the chancel on Easter Sunday or give a special offering in lieu of flowers, please complete the information below and place it in the basket. The suggested amount is \$7.00 per flower. Please submit cash or check with this form. Deadline – Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Name (optional):		
# of flowers	or	in lieu of flowers
In Memory of		
In Honor of		
To the Glory of God will	be used if the	above items are left blank.
Amount submitted \$		