

First Wednesday in Lent

A Service of Prayer and Preaching



*And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me?
My hour has not yet come." (John 2:4)*

February 14, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Fargo, North Dakota

Holy Communion is being celebrated in this service. In this Sacrament, Jesus gives us His own body and blood in and with the bread and wine. He delivers to us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that He won for us on the cross. Public expression is also made of our oneness in doctrine and practice. Out of respect for our church's confession and out of respect for responsible pastoral care, our congregation observes the historic practice of close communion. Welcome to commune with us today are all communicant members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We joyfully stand ready to assist any others who wish to prepare to commune with us.

Prelude

Opening Verses

- P** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.
- C** **Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.**
- P** Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
- C** **Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.**
- P** Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.
- C** **I hate those who cling to worthless idols; as for me, I trust in the Lord.**
- P** I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.
- C** **You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.**
- P** Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.
- C** **My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.**
- P** Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me.
- C** **I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.**
- P** For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!”
- C** **They conspire against me and plot to take my life.**
- P** But I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.”
- C** **My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.**
- P** Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. (*Psalms 31:1-16*)
- C** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. . . Almighty and everlasting God, keep us from passing by the cross and failing to acknowledge the love revealed there in the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus. Help us as we make our way through Lent and these evenings of reflection your son’s appointed time that we might see too that our times are in your hands; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who live and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

First Reading

Galatians 4:3-7

We were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"My Time Has Not Yet Come"

John 2:4

Prayers

Offering (Please *sign and pass* the green Fellowship book found at the center end of each pew.)

Psalm of Repentance

Psalm 130

- P** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
C O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
P If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?
C But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
C my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning. more than watchmen for the morning.
P O Israel, hop in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.
C And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn of Confession *“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”*

LSB 607

Corporate Confession and Absolution

LSB 290

Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution Hymns

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

LSB 419

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”

LSB 428

“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior”

LSB 619

Dismissal

Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn *“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”*

LSB 422

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Those Assisting in Worship:

Officiant: Pastor Bernie Worral
Ushers: Danny Montana plus Volunteers

Organist: Mrs. Pam Sommer
Videographer: Kay Tegtmeier