

Third Wednesday in Lent

A Service of Prayer and Preaching



"These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come." (John 8:20)

February 28, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Fargo, North Dakota

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, our times are in Your hands, every step of the way you are guiding us to the future that you see fit for us, teach us to trust in you, following after your Son through all things even to life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.”

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Special Music

"The Lamb," (LSB 547), arr. by Sammi Hintz

Gospel Reading

John 8:12-30

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Protected for a Time when He Is Not Protected"

John 8:20

Hymn of Response *"In Christ Alone,"* words and music by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found. He is my Light, my strength, my
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
 3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death: This is the pow'r of Christ in

4
 song. This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground firm through the
 Babe. This gift of love and right - eous - ness scorned by the
 slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the
 me. From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com -

7
 fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love! What depths of
 ones He came to save 'til on that cross as Je - sus
 grave He rose a - gain. And as He stands in vic - to -
 mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of

10
 peace, when fears are stilled, when strif - ings cease. My Com - fort -
 died the wrath of God was sat - is - fied, for ev - 'ry
 ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am
 man can ev - er pluck me from His hand 'til He re -

13
 er, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
 sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.
 His, and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 turns, or calls me home here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

"In Christ Alone" words and music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty.
 (c) 2002 Thankyou Music [PRS], admin. by Worship Together.com songs
 except for the U.K. and Europe which is admin. by Kingsway Music.
 CCLI License #1861211

Prayers

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

Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn *"Abide with Me"*

LSB 878

Officiant: Pastor B Worral; **Organ:** Pam Sommer; **Ushers:** Volunteers; **Video & UR Director:** Sammi H