

Immanuel – St. Paul's



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Quinquagesima

February 14th, 2021

A Note to Our Visitors

We welcome you in the name of our living Savior, Jesus Christ, and we pray that your time of worship with us today will be a blessing to you.

Scripture Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 18:31-43

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." ¹²And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Holy Gospel

Luke 18:31–43

³¹Taking the twelve, [Jesus] said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³²For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. ³³And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." ³⁴But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

³⁵As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹"What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." ⁴²And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." ⁴³And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Lenten Mid-Week Service Theme for 2021:

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

This theme comes from Ephesians 3:18 and the hymn, "O Love, How Deep" (LSB 544). In following this theme through our Lenten Midweek service we will seek to trace the enormous dimensions of God's merciful love for sinners in Christ. The primary goal is that we may more fully comprehend and rejoice in "the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge" (Ephesians 3:18). A second goal is that we would come to associate each of the many dimensions of God's great love and mercy elaborated in this series with the suffering and death of Christ, enriching our Lenten meditation and our ongoing understanding of the cross. A third goal is that God's enormous love for us would move us to live in love and mercy toward others.

Introductory Notes for Lenten Mid-Week Theme,

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High":

God is "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4) and "abounding in merciful love" (Ex 34:6). The enormity of God's mercy drove Saint Paul to his knees, fervently praying that others, too, might "have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge" (Eph 3:18–19). Such love and mercy stirred the souls of God's Old Testament people as well, who exulted: "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him. . . . The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting" (Ps 103:11, 17).

At the same time, the Bible teaches that all humanity will face a final judgment before God, and that apart from Jesus Christ there is no escape from the divine wrath that is coming upon the world because of human sin and wickedness. It is often noted that contemporary Western culture rejects this idea that God punishes. In a cultural setting like this, clearly the church must proclaim—and the church must clearly proclaim—the truth about God's holiness and judgment. Without the preaching of the law, there is no real awareness of the need for and nature of the gospel.

But there is another, perhaps less obvious, challenge. Yes, the world around us casually acknowledges that God is loving and merciful, at least to the extent that God is acknowledged at all. However, we must not assume, regarding the gospel, that it is therefore obvious and easily known. Not everyone knows the mercy and love of God. The love of God *in Jesus Christ* is no generic, ordinary kind of love. It is a love *for sinners* in Jesus Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

Lenten Family Activity Kits

Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team grant, all St. Paul's families with young children (ages 2-9) will receive a Lenten Family Activity Kit, including a Lent Calendar with doors to open, a "Jesus Tree" with daily Bible readings and symbols to color, a Good Friday

clock craft, an Arch Book about the gardens of Easter, and lots of information on ways families can observe Lent together in their home life. **Please pick up your family's kit from the Parish Hall** if you have children in this age range or if you can help deliver a kit to one of the families.

Bible Class

We will not have Bible Class during the Lenten Season.

Voters' Meeting

St. Paul's Voters' Meeting will be held next Sunday, February 21, following the church service.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

St. Paul's Ladies Aid/LWML will be meeting next Thursday, February 18, at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Memory Verse for This Week

Transfiguration/Ash Wednesday

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Next Sunday Scripture Readings

Genesis 3:1-21

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Matthew 4:1-11

