

Immanuel – St. Paul's



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



The First Sunday in Lent

(Invocavit)

February 24th, 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

Genesis 3:1-21

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Matthew 4:1-11

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;

on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,'
and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

✠ Church Notes – February 21st, 2021

Lenten Family Activity Kits

It's not too late to pick up your Lenten Family Activity Kit, prepared for all St. Paul's families with young children. If you have not already done so, **please pick up your family's kit from the box in the church entryway!**

Bible Class

We will not have Bible Class during the Lenten Season.

Voters' Meeting

St. Paul's Voters' Meeting will be held today following the church service.

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.

Next Sunday Scripture Readings

Genesis 32:22-32
1 Thessalonians 4:1-7
Matthew 15:21-28

Memory Verse for This Week

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober-minded; be watchful.
Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.
Resist him, firm in your faith.

LENT MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

February 24 th	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 2 <i>“Love So Rich In Provision”</i>	St. Paul’s
March 3 rd	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 3 <i>“Love that Spares No Cost”</i>	St. Paul’s
March 10 th	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 4 <i>“Love that Comes in Many Ways”</i>	Immanuel
March 17 th	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 5 <i>“Love that Deals Thoroughly with Sin”</i>	Immanuel
March 24 th	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 6 <i>“Love So Broad”</i>	Immanuel
April 1 st	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday <i>“Deepest, Truest Love at Our Lord’s Table”</i>	St. Paul’s
April 2 nd	8:00 am	Good Friday (Chief Divine Service) <i>“Jesus’s Love and the Meaning of Life”</i>	Immanuel
April 2 nd	6:30 pm	Good Friday (Tenebrae Vespers) <i>“Jesus’s Love and the Meaning of Life”</i>	St. Paul’s
April 4 th	7:00 am	Easter <i>“Love that Ends Our Fears”</i>	Immanuel
April 4 th	10:00 am	Easter <i>“Love that Ends Our Fears”</i>	St. Paul’s



*Come, Holy Spirit,
and Fill the Hearts of Your Faithful*

This Week at Immanuel-St. Paul's

Sunday	8:00 am	Morning Worship @ Immanuel
	10:00 am	Holy Communion @ St. Paul's
	11:00 am	St. Paul's Voters' Meeting
	6:30 pm	Jr. Catechesis @ St. Paul's Parish Hall
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Pastor Sean on KFYO Radio "Concord Matters"
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek Vespers @ St. Paul's
Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Communion @ Immanuel
	10:00 am	Morning Worship @ St. Paul's
	6:30 pm	Jr. Catechesis @ St. Paul's Parish Hall