

# Immanuel – St. Paul's



Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod



# The Third Sunday in Lent

(*Oculi*)

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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**

*Jeremiah 26:1-15*

*Ephesians 5:1-9*

*Luke 11:14-28*

## **Old Testament Reading**

*Jeremiah 26:1–15*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. <sup>3</sup>It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. <sup>4</sup>You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, <sup>5</sup>and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, <sup>6</sup>then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’”

<sup>7</sup>The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. <sup>8</sup>And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he

has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

## **Epistle**

*Ephesians 5:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

## **Holy Gospel**

*Luke 11:14–28*

<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

<sup>24</sup>"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' <sup>25</sup>And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself,

and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

<sup>27</sup>As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" <sup>28</sup>But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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✠ **Church Notes** – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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**Part-Time Secretary**

Our secretary has submitted her intent to retire from this position. As a result, a replacement is needed.

Responsibilities include producing all bulletins and service folders for regular Sunday services and special services (e.g. midweek services and funerals), updating the church calendar(s), responding to emails, maintaining records, and updating the church website. Prior secretarial experience is not needed, but familiarity with Microsoft Word, email, and basic computing skills are preferred.

Work will usually be limited to approximately eight hours per week. The day and time you work is somewhat flexible, but should generally be on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

Training will be provided until such time as the person is fully trained and comfortable working on their own.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming the new secretary, please contact Dane Patterson or any council members. If you have questions about the position, please contact Lisa Feldmann.

**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.

### **LENT MIDWEEK SCHEDULE**

March 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 4 <i>"Love that Comes in Many Ways"</i>	Immanuel
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 5 <i>"Love that Deals Thoroughly with Sin"</i>	Immanuel
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek 6 <i>"Love So Broad"</i>	Immanuel
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday <i>"Deepest, Truest Love at Our Lord's Table"</i>	St. Paul's
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 am	Good Friday (Chief Divine Service) <i>"Jesus's Love and the Meaning of Life"</i>	Immanuel
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30 pm	Good Friday (Tenebrae Vespers) <i>"Jesus's Love and the Meaning of Life"</i>	St. Paul's
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 am	Easter <i>"Love that Ends Our Fears"</i>	Immanuel
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	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*

<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 am	Morning Worship @ Immanuel
	9:00 am	Immanuel Voters' Meeting
	10:00 am	Holy Communion @ St. Paul's
	6:30 pm	Jr. Catechesis @ St. Paul's Parish Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	2:00 pm	Pastor Sean on KFYO Radio "Concord Matters"
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 pm	Lent Midweek Vespers @ Immanuel
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 am	Holy Communion @ Immanuel
	10:00 am	Morning Worship @ St. Paul's
	6:30 pm	Jr. Catechesis @ St. Paul's Parish Hall

### *Next Sunday Scripture Readings*

Exodus 16:2-21

Galatians 4:21-31

John 6:1-15

### *Memory Verse for This Week*

**Philippians 3:8-11**

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.