

**FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

**Psalm 121****SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

# NICODEMUS came to *Jesus* BY NIGHT



JOHN 3:2

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.

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# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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***Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.***

**Welcome to Worship at Immanuel** - We're so glad you're here! There are many good reasons to come to church, but the best one is to worship and thank God for His amazing love — shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what our church is all about.

**Prayer before Worship:** Lord, remind us that every new beginning starts with your grace. Renew our faith, restore our peace, and help us live as your people of light and hope. Amen.

**Prayer Requests:** We welcome requests of prayers for our members, friends and families throughout our communities and beyond. Anyone is welcome to leave a note on the desk in the office or contact the pastor. **There is also a prayer box with cards to use on the table under the mailboxes for prayer requests.**

**Offering envelopes are located and available on the table in the entry.** Please designate how you would like to have your offering used if for anything other than general funds.

**The Lord's Supper,** (offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month) the Eucharist, or Holy Communion is a means of God's grace whereby the real presence of Christ is offered. ***If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of wanting a blessing. All are welcome at the Lord's table.***

**We have Children's Bulletins** for those who wish to enhance the worship experience for the kids. They can be found each week on the table with the regular Sunday Bulletins.

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Newsletter, bulletin, and member information or changes may be sent to [ckwilson1983@gmail.com](mailto:ckwilson1983@gmail.com) or [immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com](mailto:immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com)

This Week at Immanuel 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School

## Sunday, March 1, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: ELI PETERSEN

Lay Reader: Ty Harms

Greeters: Terry & Kay Bose

Ushers/Acolytes: Alec Harper, Zane Hoffman

Communion: na

Organist: Cindy Wilson

## Sunday, March 8, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR JIM CHRISTIAN

Lay Reader: Cindy Harris

Greeters: Harlan Brucker, Sherri Ganske

Ushers/Acolytes: Dan, Ty Harms

Communion: Chad & Janelle Hoffman

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

**Please include the following people in our prayers:**

Lois Barker, Cheryl Poppe, Jeannie Weber, Bob & Nancy Lasser, Cindy Harris, Rebecca Casson, Kris Barnett, Betty Petersen, Florence Schultz (Cindy Wilson's mom)

## *Announcements*

**Service Change – We will not offer Holy Communion this Sunday, March 1, but we will have it next Sunday, March 8 when Pastor Christian is here to worship with us.**

**Join us each Wednesday in Lent for Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm** and Bible study after the meal. Sign-up sheets to provide soup can be found on the kitchen counter.

**The Choir will be rehearsing for Maundy Thursday and Easter** each Sunday morning at 8:15 am beginning Sunday, March 1. All singers are welcome to join.

**LWR Quilts - We will be meeting on Tuesdays, March 10 and 24 from 1:00-3:30 pm to tie quilts together.**

We would love to have some new faces join us! It's easy and the company is great! 😊 Please let Dee Winterland know if you plan to attend so if we need to cancel due to weather or illness, she can let you know in advance.

There is a box in the parish hall of pre-cut packages of quilt squares that can be sewn into quilt tops. Please use 1/2" seam, a tight/short stitch, and do not make a cross pattern.

## Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

### PRELUDE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Gathering ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*\*Congregation may remain seated or stand as you are able*

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the worship leader begins -*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING SONG                    *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*                    ELW 803

\*GREETING                    *\*Please stand as you are able*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**                    *Congregation may be seated.*

READING                    Genesis 12:1-4a                    back of bulletin

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord.                    **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM                    Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**  
The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.  
**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

The Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
**The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

READING                    Romans 4:1-5, 13-17                    back of bulletin

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord.                    **C: Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION                    ELW page 142

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

\*GOSPEL READING                    John 3:1-17                    back of bulletin

*The Gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.                    **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

After the reading: P: The Gospel of the Lord.                    **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**  
*Congregation may be seated.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lift High the Cross*

ELW 660

\*APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW page 104

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

WE GATHER OUR OFFERING

\*OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able.*

ELW 186

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

\*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray... O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *Each petition will conclude with:*

P: Hear us, O God. C: **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: **Amen.**

\*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Sending ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Blessed Assurance*

ELW 638

\*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE