

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 [not printed]

Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 [not printed]

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind?”

How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Lord, I believe

JOHN 9:38



Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

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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 1st 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 or immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com

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

Sunday, March 15, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: JIM GERBER, SAM

Lay Reader: Janelle Hoffman

Greeters: Kent & Rebecca Casson

Ushers/Acolytes: Eli & Katelyn Petersen

Communion: na

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

Sunday, March 22, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR JIM CHRISTIAN

Lay Reader: Erin Ifft

Greeters: Norman & Karen Harms

Ushers/Acolytes: Kasen Casson, Rylee Kukuck

Communion: na

Organist: Cindy Wilson

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

Today we welcome Jim Gerber as our worship leader.

Our 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children 12 & under will be Saturday, April 4th from 1-2PM at the church. If you are willing to fill Easter eggs with candy or small toys, they are bagged up on a table in the parish hall. Please have them returned to the church by the morning of April 4th.

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. Thank you to those who are providing soups and desserts for us to share.

The Choir will be rehearsing special music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter each Sunday morning at 8:15 am. All singers are welcome to join.

LWR Quilts - We will be meeting on Tuesday, March 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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

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

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW 714

*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. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. *Congregation may be seated.*

READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

printed below

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name 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?"

⁵He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." 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 does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. 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." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

PSALM

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

printed below

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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 9:1-41

back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

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

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things 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

Jim Gerber, SAM

HYMN OF THE DAY **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

ELW 779

*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

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE