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## + INVOCABIT (FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT) +

*Prayer and Preaching*


**February 21, 2021**

### **As We Gather** ~ *Jesus Does Battle in Our Place*

In the Garden, man exalts himself to be a god in place of God (Gen. 3:1–21). He succumbs to the temptation of the devil, and eating of the forbidden fruit, he receives death. But in the sin-cursed wilderness, God humbles Himself to become man in place of man (Mt. 4:1–11). He does not eat but fasts and bears the onslaughts of the devil for us that we may be restored to life. Jesus stands as David in our place to do battle against the Goliath, Satan (1 Samuel 17:40–51). Though outwardly Jesus appears weak, yet He comes in the name of the Lord of hosts. He draws from the five smooth stones of the books of Moses and slings the Word of God. The stone sinks into the forehead, and the enemy falls. In Christ we are victorious over the devil. Let us therefore not receive the grace of God in vain (2 Cor. 6:1–10), but seeing that we have a great High Priest, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain help in time of need (Heb 4:14–16).

### **Opening Hymn 'All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall'**

LSB 562



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall; One com - mon  
2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps And us in  
3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, Flow thoughts and  
4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came To bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the  
 dread - ful bond - age keeps; In guilt we draw our  
 deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the  
 sin and woe and shame, To be our life, our

curse de - scends, And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.  
 in - fant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.  
 dark - ened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.  
 light, our way, Our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

- 5 As by one man all mankind fell  
 And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,  
 So by one Man, who took our place,  
 We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,  
 New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.  
 This grace our ev'ry way attend  
 Until we reach our journey's end.

*Tune and text: Public domain*

### **Opening Versicles: Lent**

LSB 260

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,  
**C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**
- L Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,  
**C let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**
- L Christ was wounded for our transgressions.  
**C He was bruised for our iniquities.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the

  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that

  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,

  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -

  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

*Refrain*

  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

  
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done

  
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the

Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

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.”

16 To 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.”

17 And 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;

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

19 By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,

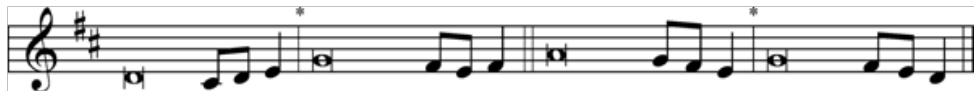
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Introit** *Psalm 91:1–2, 9–10, 13; antiphon: vv. 15a, c, 16*



When he calls to me, I will | answer him;\*

I will rescue him and | honor him.

With long life I will sat- | isfy him\*

and show him my sal- | vation.

He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High\*

will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.



I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my | fortress,\*  
my God, in | whom I trust.”

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—\*  
the Most High, who is my | refuge—  
no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,\*  
no plague come | near your tent.

You will tread on the lion and the | adder;\*  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

When he calls to me, I will | answer him;\*  
I will rescue him and | honor him.  
With long life I will sat- | isfy him\*  
and show him my sal- | vation.

## **Reading**

*2 Corinthians 6:1–10*

1Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the  
grace of God in vain. 2For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 3We  
put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our  
ministry, 4but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by  
great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprison-  
ments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge,  
patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; 7by truthful speech, and  
the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand  
and for the left; 8through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise.  
We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet well  
known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as  
sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having  
nothing, yet possessing everything.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Responsory: Lent

LSB 263

L We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**



- L** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

### **Ten Commandments**

- C** You shall have no other gods.  
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.  
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.  
Honor your father and your mother.  
You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### **Apostles' Creed**

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Sermon

“The Unmaking of Vain Makeup”      *2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

## Sermon Hymn ‘Zion Mourns in Fear and Anguish’

LSB 268

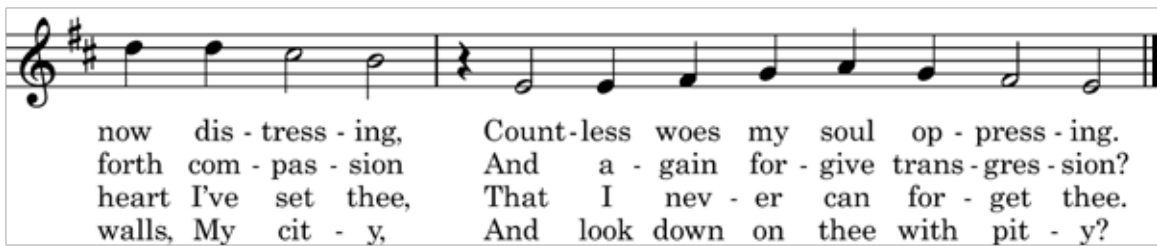


1 Zi - on mourns in fear and an - guish, Zi - on, cit - y  
2 “Once,” she mourns, “He prom - ised plain - ly That His help should  
3 “Zi - on, sure - ly I do love thee,” Thus to her the  
4 “Let not Sa - tan make thee cra - ven; He can threat - en

of our God. “Ah,” she says, “how sore I lan - guish, Bowed be -  
e’er be near; Yet I now must seek Him vain - ly In my  
Sav - ior saith, “Tho’ with man - y woes I prove thee And thy  
but not harm. On My hands thy name is grav - en, And thy

- neath the chast’n - ing rod! For my God for - sook me quite  
days of woe and fear. Will His an - ger nev - er cease?  
soul is sad to death. For my troth is pledged to thee;  
shield is my strong arm. How, then, could it ev - er be

And for - got my sor - ry plight Mid these trou - bles  
Will He not re - new His peace? Will He not show  
Zi - on, thou art dear to Me. Deep with - in My  
I should not re - mem - ber thee, Fail to build thy



5 "Ever shall Mine eyes behold thee;  
 On My bosom thou art laid.  
 Ever shall My love enfold thee;  
 Never shalt thou lack Mine aid.  
 Neither Satan, war, nor stress  
 Then shall mar thy happiness:  
 With this blessed consolation  
 Be thou firm in tribulation."

*Text and tune and tune: Public domain*

## Offering

### Prayer

**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### **Collect of the Day**

**L** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Collect for the Word**

**L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of ever lasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Morning Prayer**

**C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**'God's Word Is Our Great Heritage'**

LSB 582

God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -  
 ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our  
 chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it  
 is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its  
 teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

## **Benedicamus**

LSB 267

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Benediction**

LSB 267

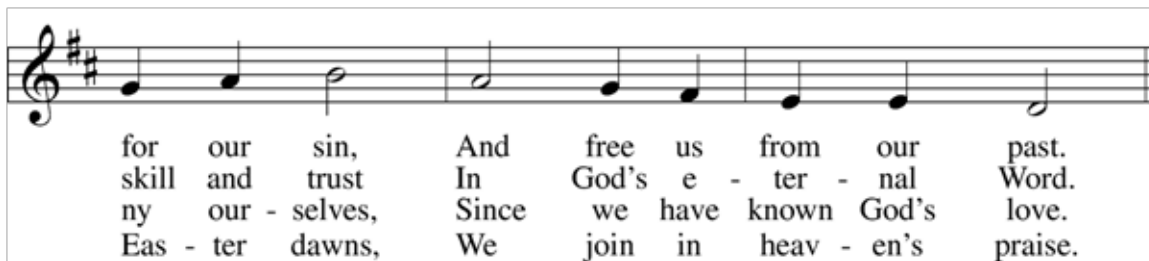
**L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

## **Closing Hymn 'O Lord, throughout These Forty Days'**

LSB 418

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And  
prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



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## **Acknowledgments**

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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# Immanuel Spirit

**Scripture Lessons for next Sunday:**  
Genesis 32:22–32, 1 Thessalonians 4:1–7  
and Matthew 15:21–28.

**Stewardship:** Matthew 4:4 – “But he answered, ‘It is written,’ “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” ” What good are all the things of this world (food, drink, house, home, wealth, etc.) if we lose the things of God? What’s more important? How should our priorities be arranged?

**Energy Assistance:** MICA has applications available for anyone who needs assistance with their heating bills this winter. Applications are accepted until April 30 and can be picked up at 609 4th Avenue, from their mailbox on the outside of their building next to the main entrance. Completed applications can be placed in the secured mailbox, too. For more information, visit [www.micaonline.org/liheap](http://www.micaonline.org/liheap) or call 641-236-3923.

**Building Healthy Families for February 21st:** How was your day? After arriving home from work or school, we may ask – or hear – that all too familiar question. There’s nothing wrong with the question, but could you dig a little deeper and connect more with your spouse, children, grandchildren, neighbor, or friend? Try one of these: How did you see God at work today? or What’s something on your mind that I can pray about today? Then see where God takes that conversation! ~ **Lutheran Family Service of Iowa: Des Moines (515) 251-4900. [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)**

**Life Quote for February 21st:** “God controlled your salvation from start to finish. He gave you faith in Baptism and strengthens faith through the Word. You can trust that He will continue to keep control of your life because you rest in the palm of His loving hand. Stand firm because God is in control.” Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota ~ **A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)**

**Lutheran Hour Ministries for February 28th:** Hear “Where a Kid Can Be a Kid” based on Mark 10 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. An impossible situation need not be a hopeless one. ~ **Listen next Sunday on 600 WMT at 6:30 a.m., 1190 KFJB at 8:30 a.m., WHO-1040 at 7:30 a.m., & 1410 KGRN at 7:30 a.m.**

**Life Thoughts in the Church Year:** “Do not lay your hand on the boy... the Lord will provide” (Genesis 22:12-14). Don’t mothers and fathers experiencing surprise pregnancies have the need—and the right—to hear this plea from God Himself? And what a privilege we have to repeat the holy prohibition and promise! Jesus Christ has stepped into every sinner’s place (Mark 1:9, 13), and no other death is necessary or sufficient. His alone will atone for all of our shortcomings.

**Audio: LifeMoments from Lutherans For Life and KFYO Radio** Hear the sanctity of life throughout Scripture and all year long! LifeMoments from Lutherans for Life listens to each week’s appointed lectionary readings with life ears and applies God’s Word to life hurts. ~ **For more information, visit [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org). To view transcripts of LifeMoments, go to [lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts).**

**SACRED MUSIC FOR THE SEASON OF LENT...** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” “In the Cross of Christ I Glory,” “My Song Is Love Unknown,” “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth.” You can listen to sacred music for the Lenten season 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

**Cleaning:** Household responsible for the week of 2/21—2/27 is **Mahaffey**. Household responsible for the week of 2/28—3/6 is **Marcinik**. If it is your week to clean church & you have other obligations or prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, the cost is \$50. Please contact the church office at [immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net](mailto:immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net) no later than the Thursday of the week before it is your week to clean.

**Confirmation Memory Work for February 24:** 5th Grade: Lord’s Prayer: Fourth Petition & Meaning. 7th Grade: Third Article & Meaning

### **Celebrating Birthdays This Week**

*Wednesday...Dylan Freese*

### **Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays This Week**

*Wednesday... April Routier*

*Friday...Markie Koepp*

*Saturday...Cole Mintle & Dennis Hagedorn*

*We pray God’s blessings upon you in the coming year.*

**ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS**  
***For the week of February 14, 2021***

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Attendance | 30        |
| Communion  | 23        |
| General:   | \$4845.00 |
| Missions:  | \$120.00  |

**WEEK AHEAD**

|             |         |   |
|-------------|---------|---|
| Today       | 9:00am  | Invocavit (1st Sunday of Lent)  |
|             | 10:30am | Christian Education   |
|             |         | Acolyte/Crucifier: Joey/Cole  |
| Tuesday     | 10:00am | Greek Study, Pastor in Newton   |
| Wednesday   | 4-5pm   | 5th Grade Confirmation  |
|             | 5-6pm   | 7th Grade Confirmation  |
|             | 5:15pm  | Potluck Supper  |
|             | 6:30pm  | St. Matthias, Apostle:<br>Evening Prayer Service  |
| Thursday    | 9:30am  | Confessions Study at Holy Cross,<br>Carlisle  |
| Next Sunday | 9:00am  | Reminiscere (2nd Sunday of Lent)  |
|             | 10:30am | Christian Education/Popcorn Sun.<br>Acolyte/Crucifier: Elizabeth/Lauren<br>Food Pantry Sunday |

## **UPCOMING SERVICES**

**Wednesday, February 24**

**Potluck Supper • 5:15pm**

**St. Matthias, Apostle/Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm**

***“Let Another Take His Office”***

**Wednesday, March 3**

**Potluck Supper • 5:15pm**

**Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm**

***“It Is Better That One Man Die Than The Whole Nation Perish!”***

**Wednesday, March 10**

**Potluck Supper • 5:15pm**

**Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm**

***“This One Was With Jesus of Nazareth”***

**Wednesday, March 17**

**Potluck Supper • 5:15pm**

**Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm**

***“What Is Truth?”***

**Wednesday, March 24**

**Potluck Supper • 5:15pm**

**Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm**

***“I Find No Guilt In This Man...Take Him and Kill Him”***

# **From the Mouth of the Enemies of Christ**

## **Sermon Series for the Season of Lent**

**Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp**

The Eighth Commandment instructs, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” The updated translation reads, “give false testimony,” but I prefer bearing false witness. Why? It is more biblical in language. To bear means to carry. To “give false testimony” implies that once you speak a falsity about your neighbor, it is no longer your problem. This is not what the commandment means. There is more than just speaking. To bear one another burdens in love includes fellow reputations; hence to bear is to carry your neighbor’s reputation, and they carry your own.

This past election year highlighted problems that have been stewing for quite a long time. Not only has it been deemed ok on all sides of the aisle to speak falsely, it is also been widely disseminated that it is ok to hate and decriminalize those who disagree with you. For many years, there has been a movement away from a right and a wrong, and heavy use of anger lodged at those with whom you deem as your enemies. Many don’t just think or speak of “disagreeing;” instead, we talk of adversaries, foes, and enemies. What is often forgotten is these are the very terms used to describe Satan. What is also forgotten is the Eighth Commandment, or it is twisted. Either we are told not to judge, or the best construction is not used.

Paul addresses both these problems, ***“If anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*** (Galatians 6:1-2)

This is a reality of the baptismal identity that is given to you as a gift through the Font of water joined to God’s Word. This year there are Lenten Devotions for your use that dive more deeply in the reality of baptism. As we bear one another’s burdens in love, “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.” Again, this contains better biblical imagery as we read, ***“As you come to [Jesus], a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*** (1 Peter 2:4-5)

In our Lenten preparation this year, we are going to take Paul's admonition to Timothy, ***"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe."***

We are going to practice the Eighth Commandment by looking at the words spoken by the enemies of Christ. Just who are these enemies? We will hear from Caiaphas, Pilate, those gathered at Jesus' trial and at His cross. We will begin on Ash Wednesday by looking at His enemy that we don't like to talk about.

As we walk through Lent, may the Lord keep ever in our hearts, minds, and lips, ***"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** (Matthew 5:44-48)

Then when we see our imperfection, may we hear God's Word to, ***"return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."*** (Joel 2:12-13)

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp





## **Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, March 28 • 9:00am**

**Monday, March 29 • Noon Prayer Service**

**Tuesday, March 30 • Noon Prayer Service**

**Wednesday, March 31 • Noon Prayer Service**

**Holy Thursday w/ Holy Communion, April 1 • 6:30pm**

***"His Blood Be On Us And Our Children!"***

**Good Friday w/ Holy Communion, April 2 • 6:30pm**

***"He Saved Others: He Cannot Save Himself!"***

**Holy Saturday, April 3 • Noon Prayer Service**

**Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil w/ Holy Communion, April 3 • 6:30pm**

Services are livestreamed on our Facebook page & Youtube channel.

All links are on our Church Website

<http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org/>



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

*He is Risen*

**The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Dawn**

**with Holy Communion**

**Sunday, April 4 • 6:30am**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day**

**with Holy Communion**

**Sunday, April 4 • 9:00am**

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