

O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.

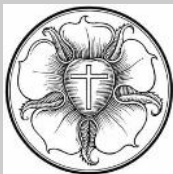
ST. MATTHEW 15: 28

FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
FOR THE
REMINISCERE,
THE SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT



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Lent with the Lord's Commands

by Pastor Sutton

THE Church is always prepared for her Lord Jesus in the same way – through repentance. “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand,” said Jesus, “repent and believe in the gospel” (St. Mark 1.15).

To prepare for her Easter celebration the Church marks off forty days of special preparation called “Lent” beginning with Ash Wednesday. It is a time frame that draws us to our Lord’s fasting in the desert for forty days, to the rain of God’s judgment coming down to flood the earth for forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7.12), and to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years before entering the Promised Land, until the generation which rebelled against God all were dead.

On the fortieth day after the Passover and the escape from slavery in Egypt, Israel arrived at Mount Sinai. There, the Lord gave the people His ten “words” – the Ten Commandments, and made a covenant to be their God and provide for them. Lent’s forty days take us not to Sinai and the Law, for that covenant is fulfilled. Rather our journey is with Jesus to Calvary and to the Easter Tomb, the beating heartbeat of the Gospel and our Christian faith, where the old was fulfilled and saving, forgiving new covenant in Jesus’ blood was eternally set in place.

Now, the Law is the good, bright mirror that shows us our need for our Savior, the bar that restrains our sinful flesh, and the bit and bridle God uses to keep us straight on His holy way. This year in Lent we make a catechetical journey to Sinai, so that Calvary and the empty tomb, the way into the Promised Land, shines in our hearts that much brighter.


Lent is meant to order our hearts and minds not only by consideration of the terrible cost of our Lord’s gracious sacrifice on our behalf, but also upon His willingness to be our Savior and to reconcile us to His Father. It is a catechetical season to grow in this wisdom and instruction of the Lord. The entire season, as even our entire faith and life, is observed in the sure and certain knowledge of the Resurrection.


Therefore you are encouraged to make use of Lenten customs that aid you in your devotion, and specifically to make an increased use of the Means of Grace. The Holy Communion is every Sunday at 10:30am, and Bible


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Esprit is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Esprit de corps indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Midweek Lent Services: "Lent with the Lord's Commands"



*These are the holy Ten Commands
God gave to us by Moses' hands
When high on Sinai's mount he stood,
Receiving them for our good.
Have mercy, Lord!*

To prepare heart and mind for the Paschal Feast, attend the Lenten midweek services on Wednesday evenings, beginning with Ash Wednesday Divine Service on March 6 at 7pm. After that, there will be five weeks of Lent midweek Vespers at 7pm (each preceded by Lent dinners).

The theme of the five Lent midweek Vespers this year will be "Lent with the Lord's Commands." Each week, we will meditate upon the Ten Commandments:

Wednesday, March 13: **First Commandment**

Wednesday, March 20: **Second and Third Commandments**

Wednesday, March 27: **Fourth and Fifth Commandments**

Wednesday, April 3: **Sixth and Seventh Commandments**

Wednesday, April 10: **Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments**

*You have this Law to see therein
That you have not been free from sin
But also that you clearly see
How pure toward God life should be.
Have mercy, Lord!*

*Our works cannot salvation gain;
They merit only endless pain.
Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we flee,
Who pleads for us endlessly.
Have mercy, Lord!*

(LSB 581; stanzas 1, 11, 12)

Also, watch for Lenten Devotion booklets written by confessional Lutheran pastors for the theme, "Lent With The Lord's Commands" published by the Lutheran blog, *Brothers of John the Steadfast* (steadfastlutherans.org). ✕

Continued from page 1 class for adults begins at 9am (as does Sunday School for our children). If you have fallen out of regular use of the means of grace, and have fallen away from Bible Class and Sunday School, Lent is the perfect time to begin anew.

Christians may add to their piety by fasting, increased almsgiving, and increased prayer. This year, we join together for Ash Wednesday on March 6, and beginning on March 13, we join together for Lent Vespers every Wednesday evening, featuring catechetical meditations on the Ten Commandments entitled, "Lent with the Lord's Commands." Vespers be-



gins at 7pm each week, preceded by Lent dinners in the Parish Center.

So please take time now to put onto your calendar the midweek Lent and Holy Week services at Immanuel. All of the services are important, more important than any other activities you can attend to this year. God's Word, His good and holy Law being taught, the blessed story of salvation in Christ, opportunity for confession and absolution, the regular reception of the Sacrament of the Altar for the forgiveness of sins: these will nourish and help you much more than any other activities. This is true all year round. ✠

Gnosticism

by Vicar Cornwell

GNOSTICISM is probably a word not many are familiar with. So what exactly is it and why does it matter?

Gnosticism was an early heresy in the Christian church that focused exclusively on "knowledge" (The Greek word literally means, "to know.") To the Gnostic, what mattered was attaining a particular knowledge of the Divine that they might break free from the shackles of earthly life. Only in doing this could one ascend to a true form of being. Therefore, this temporal life was essentially meaningless.

Due to this, many Gnostics neglected their bodies, starving themselves, entering into strict ascetic lifestyles, and refusing many other material necessities of the body. Thus, Gnostics were very narcissistic. They were obsessed with themselves. There was a strong urge to isolation. The only love that existed among them was love of self.

I am sure you can already see some conflicts between Gnosticism and Christianity. For one, all that we see has been created inherently good

by the Triune God. Not only is this seen in the fact that God creates and calls everything "good" in the beginning, but also because His own Son willingly took on human flesh. That substance that was crude for the Gnostic, the Lord sanctified by uniting it intimately with Himself.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon writes, "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1.9) Gnosticism has reared its ugly head once again in our day.

Just think of society's pure emphasis upon the mind. Those who cannot think for themselves are considered less than human by society today. If someone cannot function properly from a cognitive sense, they are not human. Naturally then, if they provide no benefit to society and are essentially not human, they are merely taking up space.

Therefore, children are aborted even up to birth. Those who suffer from dementia are

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considered useless, since they no longer can think for themselves. There is even a movement known as “transhumanism,” which hopes to one day upload one’s consciousness onto a computer and transfer it to a body that will never deteriorate.

These are just a few of the evils that flow from this Gnostic mindset (no pun intended).

It is a challenging time to live in. How can we, as Christians, confess the truth of God’s Word in such a time? Should we just learn all the best arguments so that we can put down our opponents?

I would suggest that a society focusing so much on cognitive capacities and therefore knowledge, will not yield if argued against with their own weapons. Even if their beliefs may be illogical (i.e., abortion, euthanasia, etc.).

What is needed is something the modern-day Gnostic does not and cannot comprehend. What is needed is a love that surpasses understanding. A love that is ultimately found in Christ.

Living according to Christ’s love is the only thing that will make a difference in our day. Think, for example, of Christ’s exhortation to His hearers during the Sermon on the Mount: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (St. Matthew 5.16).

It is not the well-crafted arguments that will silence these Gnostics. It is not the intelligence that will draw them to Christianity. For the cross is foolishness. Countless philosophers

and scholars have tirelessly made this point over the centuries.

Christianity is not merely a cognitive set of beliefs. Rather, these beliefs are to change our very movements: To give us new and clean hearts that desire to do God’s will in all things.

To the modern-day Gnostic, this is unexplainable. It is otherworldly. Giving oneself sacrificially for others makes no sense to our human reasoning. It is seen as weak.

But Christ did not merely assume and redeem our human mind. Instead, He assumed every bit of humanity in His Godhead and in so doing, redeemed it all.

There is a famous saying in the early Church spoken in defense against these heresies: “Whatever was not assumed (by Christ) was not redeemed.” The point: if Christ did not take on every part of our humanity, we are in trouble.

Let the light of Christ’s love shine forth in our cold and loveless world. Let us stand for the voiceless children. Let us stand for those who no longer have or who have lost cognitive function. Moreover, let us pray for our enemies and those who persecute us, including those who support and promote these evils. Always keep in mind our Lord’s prayer for those who persecuted and crucified Him: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (St. Luke 23.34).

May our Father in heaven fill our hearts with the love of His Son that we might be Him to all men: Friends and enemies alike. Amen. ✕

Looking Ahead to the Tre Ore on Good Friday

ONE ancient Christian custom of meditation on Our Lord's Passion and death is the Tre Ore ("three hours") on Good Friday. The Tre Ore is celebrated from noon-3pm because those are the hours Christ hung on the cross.

The Tre Ore has three segments: Noon Prayer; the Solemn Liturgy (Divine Service) at 12:30; and Afternoon Prayer at 2:30.

The Tre Ore includes Psalms, hymns, and lita-



nies. The choir sings responses to the Scripture lessons. The Passion according to St. John is the Gospel lesson for the day. The Bidding Prayer is prayed. The ancient Good Friday Reproaches are sung alternating with the hymn "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy."

The Tre Ore is a beautiful and meaningful Christian custom as the chief service of Good Friday.

Plan to make the Tre Ore on Friday, April 19, a part of your Holy Week meditation this year. If you are unable to stay for the entire Tre Ore, there are brief pauses at 12:30 and 2:30 to enter or depart. ✕

Sunday Adult Bible Study

JOIN us each Sunday morning at 9am for study of God's Word in the book of Hebrews.

March 3 Hebrews 11.1-31 **"People of Faith"**

"Now faith is the basis of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..." We will review with the inspired author of Hebrews the divinely attested people of faith from the foundational story of God's people in the Old Testament. Four cases from the life of Abraham as a type of God's faithful people.

March 10 Hebrews 11.1-31 **"People of Faith" (continued)**

Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph as typical heirs of God's blessing.

March 17 Hebrews 11.1-31 **"People of Faith" (continued)**

Four cases from the life of Moses as a type of Christ, the deliverer.

March 24 Hebrews 11.1-31 **"People of Faith" (continued)**

Three cases from the journey of Israel into the promised land as types of deliverance.

March 31 Hebrews 11.32-40 **"The Achievements and Suffering of Faithful People"**

Hebrews makes a passionate appeal to Christians to regard themselves imaginatively as part of a heroic community with divine backing, rather than a despised minority of contemporary society, and to identify themselves emotionally with all the host of the named and nameless people of faith who bear witness to God both by what they achieved and suffered.

The Annunciation: March 25

“ANNUNCIATION” means “announcement” and it is the term used on the Feast to celebrate Gabriel’s announcement to Mary: “Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee... thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus” (St. Luke 1.28, 31).

After December 25 had been chosen to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Church counted back nine months to celebrate the date of His conception – March 25.

Here we have a glimpse of the joy of Christmas. Some church fathers believed that the date upon which a person was conceived was also the day they died, which is a fitting mystery in the years when Good Friday falls on March 25. The feast commemorates the sublime moment in history when the Divine Word—second person of the Holy Trinity - assumed human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Divine Word is made flesh in the womb and dwelt among us.

The Blessed Martin Luther preaches on the incredulity of the Christian faith in the Annunciation:

“It takes a high and excellent faith that she could become a mother while still remaining a virgin. That is truly beyond comprehension, thought and human understanding and experience... Don’t you think that this was a lot for her to swallow? For she was flesh and blood just like us. That means that she had to let go of everything, even herself, and only cling to the Word which the angel announced to her.

What happens to Mary’s faith also happens to us all. We must believe by faith what will be, against our presuppositions, thoughts, experiences and examples. For this is the nature of faith, that it can allow nothing in addition, upon which a man may direct or advise himself, except the Word or promise of God.”

Divine Service for the Feast of the Annunciation will be **Monday, March 25 at 7pm.** ✕

Spring forward

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10

Italian Evening Out

Saturday, March 9 at 5pm

\$15

Dinner includes:
your choice of entrée, salad, bread,
drink, and dessert

Hosted by YPI

All proceeds will help defer the cost of our youth attending the *Higher Things* conference this summer.

RSVP on the insert in Sunday’s *Parish News* by March 3.

Council of Deacons Report

by Richard Monday

THE February 2 meeting opened with meditation on the Word of God, in which Pastor led a prayer for the parish, followed by the study of the Lutheran Confessions. We are studying the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article VII on the Lord's Supper, and the "Crypto-Calvinist" controversy that brought that article about.

Pastor Sutton reported on membership changes since the last meeting, including one death in the congregation. Vicar Cornwell is teaching a Tuesday night class on biblical roles of men and women. Pastor urged the Deacons to appoint a lay voter for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod presidential election. Kris Wineinger volunteered to serve and was approved by the Deacons.

In ongoing business, John Schulz reported the completion of a large savings investment from the Immanuel Fund made with Lutheran Church Extension Fund to take advantage of their special offer of 4% interest rate. For library construction, the Braunschweiger Fund purchased Menards gift cards from Scrip, saving 3% by using Scrip for the project. Work on the new library will begin shortly. Pastor and the Deacons recognize Conner Walts, one of our college students, and some of his fraternity brothers, for initial demolition work donated.

Board Reports:

Finance: Reported that the General Fund had a larger positive balance after calendar year 2018 than after the previous year. January 2019 offerings were lower due to inclement weather.

Outreach: Brat Trot will seek to partner with the new managers at Terre Haute Brewing Company.

Property and Grounds: Rich Bucy thanked Kris Wineinger and Premier Lawn for the snow and ice clearance from our parking lot. Board will meet February 21 to discuss security systems and location of the shelter house next to the vicarage. Kris Wineinger brought up that it is time to consider the front landscaping project, and consensus was that we need to find out if any memorial monies are designated and available for that project.

Education: There will be a meeting February 13, and VBS planning will commence soon.

Worship Support: All usher spots are filled but volunteers are always welcome and will be needed down the road.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, March 2 at 7am in the parish center. Other communicant members who wish to meet with the Council of Deacons to discuss special concerns, needs, or requests should make arrangements with the Chairman of the Council of Deacons prior to a scheduled meeting. ✕

Immanuel Parish Membership

Funeral: Arlene Edith Luchsinger — died January 23
Carolyn Fakouri — died February 7

DIVINE SERVICE is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am and on Feast Days as announced.

DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS (MORNING PRAYER) is prayed at 9:30am Tuesday – Thursday, and Feast Days as announced; **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) is prayed at 4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered the third Thursday of the month (*March 21*) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment. Vespers is prayed at 4:30pm prior to Confession.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY are at 9am.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY with dinner is on Sundays at 5:30pm.

ADULT CHOIR rehearses on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm (7:45-9 during Lent, and on Sundays from 9:45-10:20am.

“WORSHIP ANEW,” produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel’s special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

WESTMINSTER BIBLE STUDY meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. All members are invited to attend. The next meeting will be March 29.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for April is Friday, March 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing on Tuesday, March 26.

Serving in March at Divine Service

Altar Guild – Barbara Seliger; Sydney Bays

Tellers – Brian & Georgianna Milner; Eric & Janet Crucitti

Ushers – Christian Tate; Brad Bilyeu; Luke Milner; Jeff Allen

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for March

March 3	Quinquagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 6	Ash Wednesday, 7pm	Divine Service
March 10	Invocabit – First Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 13	Wednesday of Lent I	Vespers
March 17	Reminiscere – Second Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 20	Wednesday of Lent II	Vespers
March 24	Oculi – Third Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 25	(Monday) Annunciation, 7pm	Divine Service
March 27	Wednesday of Lent III	Vespers
March 31	Laetare – Fourth Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service