



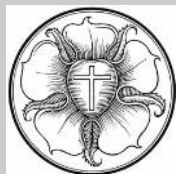
When Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry

ST. MATTHEW 4: 2
FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL FOR INVOCABIT



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Esprit

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March/April 2020

O Blessed, Holy Trinity

by Pastor Sutton

O blessed, holy Trinity,
Divine, eternal Unity,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
This day Your name be uppermost.

My soul and body keep from harm,
And over all extend Your arm;
Let Satan cause me no distress
Nor bring me shame and wretchedness.

To prepare for her Easter celebration, the Church marks off forty days of special preparation called “Lent” beginning with Ash Wednesday. Forty days is a time frame that points us to our Lord’s fasting in the desert for forty days (St. Matthew 4.1-11), to the rain of God’s judgment coming down to flood the earth for forty days and forty nights through which believing Noah and his family were saved (Genesis 7.12), and to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years before being allowed to enter the Promised Land (Joshua 5.6).

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. Traditionally, the Church has used this as 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 atoning death of Christ, and of His glorious resurrection on the third day to pave the way to eternal life for all who believe.

Which is “Second Article” stuff: referencing the second article of the Apostles’ Creed. The Son of God was sent by His Father in heaven to be our Lord and Savior. The Son obeyed the Father’s will perfectly, taking on our flesh, suffering in our place the punishment for sin, even unto death on the cross. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Risen Son, working through the Ministry of the Gospel to impart the gift of saving, justifying faith into the hearts of people, and preserve that faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. The works of the Holy Trinity are ultimately for the salvation of His created children.

This year’s catechetical theme for Midweek Lenten services is “O Blessed, Holy Trinity,” the theme from *Lutheran Service Book* hymn 876. Each

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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.

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Wednesday night, there will be a catechetical sermon on the Creed.

So please take time now to put onto your calendar the midweek 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, help, and encourage you much more than any other activities. This is true all year round.



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. Christians have added to their piety in Lent by fasting, increased almsgiving, and/or increased prayer. The Holy Communion is every Sunday at 10:30am, and Bible class for adults begins at 9am (as does Sunday School for our children) - studying the Gospel of Luke, currently in chapter 1. We are studying 1 Samuel at the Wednesday morning coffee break Bible study. Lent is the perfect time to start a new habit and join us. Matins is prayed Wednesday mornings at 8:30am.

We've joined together for Ash Wednesday Divine Service, and beginning on March 4, we join together every Wednesday evening at 7pm, preceded by 5:30 pm midweek dinners in the Parish Center.

My Maker, hold me in Your hand;
O Christ, forgiven, let me stand;
Blest Comforter, do not depart;
With faith and love enrich my heart. ✠

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

by Vicar Keller

IN the book of Isaiah, there are four "Servant Songs:" Isaiah 42, 49, 50, and 52.12–53.13. Ideally, the servant is supposed to be Israel, who would uphold God's commands for justice, uprightness, and righteousness. However, Israel has failed, and the Yahweh's Messiah was viewed to be the fulfillment as the servant.

The final Servant Song comes up as one of the readings in the second midweek Lent Vespers and it will serve as the focus of this article. It is perhaps the most well-known of the Servant Songs. The major theme of this song is the substitutionary atonement of Christ, that is, Jesus taking our sins, iniquities and punishment, and giving us His righteousness.

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53.4-6).

The sinless Son of God took what was not His and bore it for those who esteemed Him not. He took the wrath of God, which was ours to

receive, and was stricken, smitten, and afflicted in our place. Yet, every drop of blood poured out on behalf of sinners brought us healing. While we, like sheep, have gone astray, Jesus was the Lamb to atone for the sins of the world (cf. Leviticus 16.21-22).

It is around the cross that our theology is shaped. St. Paul wrote, "For Jews demand signs and Greeks wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1.22-24). In every sermon preached here at Immanuel, you will hear about Jesus' crucifixion and death for the forgiveness of your sins. Many in the world look elsewhere for meaning in life. Many are ashamed that Christ was crucified, so they demand empty crosses in their churches. They see the cross as a defeat.

Yet, God spoke through Isaiah, "Behold, my servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted" (Isaiah 52.13). The cross was the final nail in Satan's coffin. God declares you righteous through the atoning blood of our Lord. As you were baptized into the Triune Name, you receive the benefits of Christ's death, and will share in His resurrection. ✠



Sunday Adult Bible Study

JOIN us each Sunday at 9am for Adult Bible Study. We begin with the opening in the Nave, and continue with study in the Parish Center. ✠

Coffee Break Bible Study

EACH Wednesday, we pray Matins in the church at 8:30am, followed by Bible study in the Parish Center. ✠

Hymnic Treasures of Lent

by Kantor Schultz

LENT is a beautiful season of the Church Year with hymns and music that focus on Jesus' suffering and death for the atonement of our sin. There are many meaningful hymns we will sing at Divine Service and Vespers. It is impossible to value one season of the year over the others, but there are many great hymns in Lent on which we could focus.

Here are a few hymns that have stood out to me this year as I've planned and prepared the music for Lent.

Orgelbüchlein

They are both represented in settings by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) in his collection *Orgelbüchlein* ("Little Organ Book). You've heard many settings from the *Orgelbüchlein* in Divine Service (such as for the introductions to "In Peace and Joy I Now Depart" (BWV 626) on February 2 and "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" (BWV 638) on February 9.) (The BWV number refers to "Bach's Works Catalog" in German: *Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis*. It is a way to quickly find which Bach piece you are searching for.)

The *Orgelbüchlein* is an important repertoire standard for every Lutheran organist because it is written to both teach organ technique and to serve as service music on the chief hymns of the Reformation. I was recently remembering that my first organ instructor gave me my copy of the *Orgelbüchlein* as a graduation gift before I



began college, wisely anticipating that it would be a staple of the curriculum. Though it is used fairly early in organ lessons, it is by no means easy, and has remained a challenge for me to this day.

I would invite you to search for recordings on YouTube. In regards to the focus of this article, especially "Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund" (BWV 621) and "O Mensch, beweine dein Sünde gross" (BWV 622).

Our Blessed Savior Seven Times Spoke

The seven last words of Christ have served as a focus for a number of composers for musical settings over the centuries.

- ✦ Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.
- ✦ Today you will be with me in paradise.
- ✦ Behold your son: behold your mother.
- ✦ I thirst.
- ✦ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- ✦ It is finished.
- ✦ Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

In that tradition, a hymn focuses on these seven last phrases of Our Lord on the cross: "Our Blessed Savior Seven Times Spoke" (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 177), or the more literal translation:

As Jesus hung upon the cross
and His body was wounded
with such bitter pain,
consider in your heart
the seven words that He spoke there.

Author Johann

(Continued on page 5)

Midweek Lent Vespers

THE theme of midweek Lent Vespers this year will be “O Blessed, Holy Trinity.” Each week, we will meditate upon the Apostles’ Creed:

Wednesday, March 4: **The Father: Creation – First Article**

Wednesday, March 11: **The Son: Redemption, Humiliation – Second Article**

Wednesday, March 18: **The Son: Redemption, Exaltation – Second Article**

Wednesday, March 25: **Annunciation of Our Lord (Second Article: Incarnation)**

Wednesday, April 1: **The Holy Spirit: Sanctification – Third Article**

**The Father’s love shield me this day;
The Son’s pure wisdom cheer my way;
The Holy Spirit’s joy and light
Drive from my heart the shades of night.** (LSB 876)

Also, utilize Lent meditations for daily prayer written by confessional Lutheran pastors. These are available for you to download to print or read on your computer, tablet, or device or listen on-line at higherthings.org/reflections. If you are unable to access them on-line, copies will be available in the Narthex and Parish Center. ✕

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Boschenstain (1472-1539/40) was a priest who was known as an expert in the Hebrew language, serving as professor in Wittenberg and Augsburg. He was the author of a Hebrew grammar as well as four hymns.

The hymn was printed in 1515 in nine stanzas, and enlarged to ten for the 1646 Hanover *Gesangbuch*.

O Sinner, Come Thy Sin to Mourn

This hymn has been used by some parishes as the Hymn of the Day for Passion Sunday, Judica—the fifth Sunday in Lent, as we move into Passiontide, the last stage (after Septuagesima and Lent) of our journey toward Easter and focus intently upon

Jesus Christi. 62
XXXIX: Die Passion aus den vier Evangelien.
Sebald Heyden.
D Mich lamm des Creutz groß/Der
Denn mit dem fromm und purem
und Christus sein Leben nicht
was er für uns gethan hat
am voll sein. Das Leben erhas
Wieder wecket. Ich tug
Ich hab die Zeit verbracht
Nur vor die Augen
2. So laßte uns mit dankbar sein / Das er
für uns leid solche Pein / Nach seinem Willen le-
ben. 2. Ach laß uns sein der Sünden feind / Welt
und Gottes Wort so heilscham / Tag und Nacht
darum streben/Die sieb erzeigen
Christus hat an uns gethan
Wir seinem Leben und
Sterben / O Menschen Kind betrachte das recht
Wie Gottes Sohn die Sünden schuldig
dafür bewahren.

Christ’s suffering and death.

Sometimes it is translated “O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin.” Written in 1530 by Sebald Heyden (1499-1561), it was originally 23 stanzas. This year, our choir will sing an abbreviated two-stanza version of the hymn (as it is curiously not included in *Lutheran Service Book*) on Judica and Good Friday. The setting our choir is learning is also by J.S. Bach.

Our Lord’s blessings to you this Lent, and may this music aid you in your meditation. ✕

Board of Finance Report

by John Schulz

THE numbers for 2019 have been finalized. Despite an increase in giving during November and December, we still ended up covering our General Operating Fund by borrowing from the Immanuel Fund. We certainly started trending in a better direction. Let's continue our cheerful giving for the sake of the Gospel in this place. ✕

Electronic Giving—GivePlus Mobile App

NO Checks? No Problem! Electronic giving is now available at Immanuel with the GivePlus mobile app. Simply download the app and set up a one time or recurring gift. Simple and secure giving electronically with your mobile device. Additional information is available on the table outside the Parish Office. ✕



Scrip

THE Scrip Program allows you to purchase gift cards while earning money for Immanuel. The gift cards can be given as gifts or for your everyday purchases while donating anywhere from 1-13% back to Immanuel. Scrip orders are placed the first and third Sunday of each month and are available for pick up the following Sunday. Stop by the Church office to pick up Scrip cards that are kept in stock; shopping, restaurants, gas and many more! Earnings from the Scrip program are designated to the mercy fund to help our neighbors in need.

Contact John Schulz at 812.299.1429 or johnschulz2@yahoo.com with questions, or visit 222.shopwithscrip.com to see what vendors are available. ✕

Serving in March and April at Divine Service

Altar Guild – *March:* Barb Seliger; Sydney Bays | *April:* Pat Casassa; Sally Mueller

Tellers – *March:* Brian & Georgianna Milner; Eric & Janet Crucitti | *April:* Rich & Deb Bucy; Susan Clements

Ushers – *March:* Jasen Gibbens; Brad Bilyeu; Luke Milner
April: Brad Cress; Terry Gibbens; Scot Mullins

Acolytes – March 1: Tony Altvater; Noah Sutton | March 4: Noah Schulz

March 8: Ian Crucitti; Pearson Tate | March 11: Adam Sutton

March 15: Austin Fitzgerald; Tony Altvater | March 18: Noah Sutton

March 22: Eli Gibbens; Ian Crucitti

March 25: Evan Pound; Austin Fitzgerald; Noah Schulz; Adam Sutton

March 29: Kole Mullins; Noah Schulz; April 1: Pearson Tate

April 5: Connor Howard; Evan Pound

Council of Deacons Report by Richard Monday

THE February 1 meeting opened with meditation on the Word of God, in which Pastor led a prayer for the parish. The deacons continued their study of the Book of Concord, Formula of Concord Article VIII, "The Person of Christ."

The January 2020 meeting was mainly an introductory and organizational meeting. Michael Latta was elected chairman of the Deacons; Richard Monday, secretary; John Schulz was elected to oversee the Board of Finance; Matt Mathias over the Board of Outreach, Assimilation, and Fellowship; Joe Eckardt over the Board of Education; Rich Bucy over the Board of Property and Grounds; and Rick Todd over the Worship Support.

In February, Pastor Sutton updated the council on potential new members and the status of current adults in catechesis. Pastor reported that twenty youth and adults have signed up for this summer's *Higher Things* retreat.

The Council proceeded to Board Reports:
Education: No report.

Finance: John Schulz reported on the year-end financial report, that Immanuel finished 2019 with a positive cash balance on hand. Also giving for January 2020 was higher than the

same month in 2019.

Property and Grounds: Rich Bucy reported that homeless people have been taking up shelter near our air conditioner units, and may have messed with the plumbing and electronics. Will be looking into a protective gate to keep people out.

Outreach/Fellowship: No report.

Worship: New volunteers for ushering were reported. Will work with Church office to send reminder emails to those who have volunteer duties.

Old Business:

John Schulz is developing a card for the pew racks for those who give electronically to drop in the plate instead of their envelope, if they are so inclined.

A calendar for monthly board meetings was discussed, filled out, and approved. Bank documents and vicarage application documents were approved and signed.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, March 14, at 7am in the Library Conference Room. 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

Baptism:	January 5	Robert Andrew Keller, son of Vicar Andrew & Maggie Keller
Funeral:	December 28	Sarah Rae Clements (died November 20)
Wedding:	January 4	Simeon & Emily Cornwell

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

DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS (MORNING PRAYER) and **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) are prayed as announced in the weekly *Parish News*.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered the third Thursday of the month (March 19; April 16) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY are at 9am. The Bible Study is studying the book of Hebrews.

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

ADULT CHOIR rehearsals are Fridays from 6:30-8pm, and 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. The next meetings are March 27 and April 24. All members are invited to attend.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for May/June is Wednesday, April 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing. Watch the *Parish News* for the date.

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for March and April

March 1	Invocabit – First Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 4	Wednesday of Lent 1, 7pm	Vespers
March 8	Reminiscere – Second Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 11	Wednesday of Lent 2, 7pm	Vespers
March 15	Oculi – Third Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 18	Wednesday of Lent 3, 7pm	Vespers
March 22	Laetare – Fourth Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
March 25	Annunciation, 7pm	Divine Service
March 29	Judica – Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
April 1	Wednesday of Lent 5, 7pm	Vespers
April 5	Palm Sunday, 10:30am	Divine Service
April 9	Maundy Thursday, 7pm	Divine Service
April 10	Good Friday – Tre Ore, 12-3pm Tenebrae, 7pm	Divine Service Vespers
April 11	Great Vigil of Easter, 7pm	Divine Service
April 12	Resurrection of Our Lord, 7 & 10:30am	Divine Service
April 19	Quasimodogeniti – Second Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
April 26	Misericordias Domini – Third Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service