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March 30, 2025

Lent 4

A photograph of three crosses silhouetted against a bright sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The crosses are of varying heights and are positioned on a dark, silhouetted hill. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter blue near the horizon.

For the message of the cross is  
foolishness to those who are perishing,

...but to us who are being saved,  
it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor.

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✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 32 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

**Greeting and prayer:** (Pastor)

**Opening Hymn: 425 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***

LSB 425

## Invocation

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

**P** Let us pray...

**C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

**We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. With repentant hearts, we sing praise to the Lord...

(tune of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" LSB 425 - Lyrics adapted from TLH 325 v. 5-6)

**♪ A broken heart, my God, my King, Is all the sacrifice I bring.  
Look down, O Lord, with pitying eye  
And save the soul condemned to die.**

**Oh, may Your love inspire my tongue Salvation shall be all my song;  
And all my powers shall join to bless  
The Lord, my Strength and Righteousness.**

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Help us to gratefully acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## First Reading

**Isaiah 12:1-6 (EHV)**

In that day you will say:  
I will give thanks to you, LORD,  
for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away,  
and you comfort me.  
<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation.  
I will trust him and will not be afraid,  
because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation.  
<sup>3</sup> Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.  
<sup>4</sup> In that day you will say:  
Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.  
Declare among the peoples what he has done.  
Proclaim that his name is exalted!  
<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!  
Let this be known in all the earth!  
<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,  
for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

### **Choir Song: "Arise, My Soul, Arise"**

Arise, my soul, arise, Shake off thy guilty fears:  
The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
Before the Throne, my Surety stands, My name is written on His hands.

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary,  
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:  
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Nor let that ransomed sinner die."

My God is reconciled, His pard'ning voice I hear;  
He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear;  
With confidence I now draw nigh, And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

Arise, my soul, arise!

### **Second Reading**

***Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (EHV)***

**P** The second reading is from Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

**C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> He told them this parable:

... <sup>11</sup> Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

<sup>20</sup> "He got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup> because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.' Then they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> The servant told him, 'Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

<sup>29</sup> "He answered his father, 'Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> "The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.'"

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

## "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

LSB 422

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,  
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;  
Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758  
Text and tune: Public domain

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 there 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.**

**Hymn of the Day: 428 *Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow***

LSB 428

**Children's Sermon** - *Children 10 years old and younger are invited to come up front.*

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (EHV)**

<sup>18</sup>For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>In fact, it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing. <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish? <sup>21</sup>Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. <sup>22</sup>Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**Sermon Theme: The “Foolish” Wisdom of the Cross**

† Why does the cross of Christ (and so many of the things of God and His Word) seem like **“foolishness”** to our human reason and to those who do not believe?

† What “wisdom” does the cross of Christ give us? (**v. 18, 25**)

Application: When you face various difficulties, temptations, doubts and fears this week, how can the cross of Christ help you through it?

## Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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## Sermon Hymn: 427 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

LSB 427

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

## Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

### Lord's Prayer

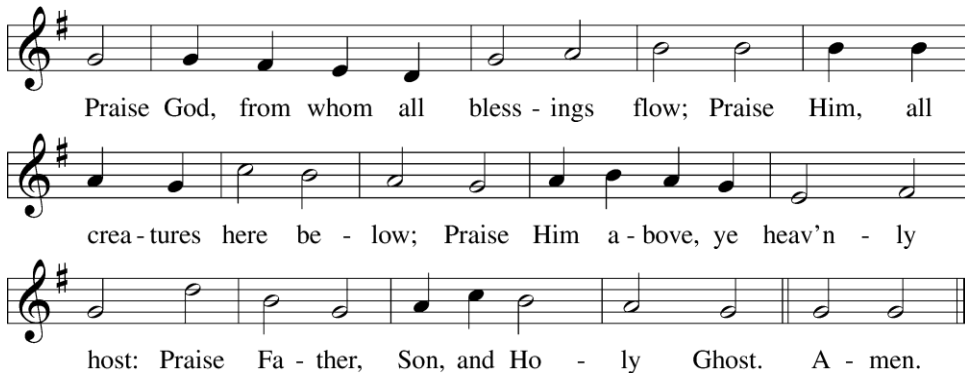
- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

### The Doxology

LSB 805



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### **Closing Hymn: 837 *Lift High the Cross* (please stand for last verse)**

LSB 837

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## **Announcements**



**Welcome!** We welcome all our visitors this morning.  
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.



Today:  
3/30/24

**Choir – 8am**  
**Worship – 9am**  
**Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am**  
**Sunday School Teachers Meeting – 11:15am**

Wednesday – **Wednesday Lent Worship #5 – 6:30pm**  
(Preaching: Pastor Terrel Kesterson – Ascension, Batavia, IL)

Church Cleaning: Team #1 (3/29-4/4); Team #2 (4/5-4/11)

Next Sunday:  
4/6/24

**Choir – 8am**  
**Worship w/ Communion – 9am**  
**Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am**  
**Activity Committee #1 Meeting – 11:15am** (Activity room)



**Reminder:** Our members are encouraged to keep the last two pews reserved for families with small children. Thank you!

**Easter Brunch Sign-Up Sheets – Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> –**

Sign-up sheets for food donations and for men to volunteer for cooking and serving are on the cupboard doors in the entryway. Easter Sunday is **April 20<sup>th</sup>**.



**Activity Group Meeting to Plan for Easter Brunch – Sun, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Activity Group #1 is asked to meet after the worship service on **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** to discuss plans for the Easter Brunch.

Activity Group #1 is below (highlighted families are the contact members for the group):

<b>Ackerman, Kyle/Bethany</b>	<b>Mueller, Mark, Tamara</b>
<b>Behr, Tom/Kathy</b>	<b>Rodebaugh, Josh/Kelsey</b>
<b>Cutler, Mike/Betsy</b>	<b>Schaser, James</b>
<b>Gurgel, Ethan</b>	<b>Stewart, Ian/Kristen</b>
<b>Hein, David</b>	<b>Traub, David</b>
<b>Koch, Tim/Gwen</b>	<b>Traub, Mike/Eileen</b>
<b>Marita, John/Lisa</b>	<b>Whiting, Mark/Amanda</b>

### **Wednesday Lent Worship Services – March 5<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm -**



Our Wednesday Lent series for this year is entitled, “The Hand of the Lord.” Please make plans to join us for these special worship services that focus on our Savior who stretched out His hands on the cross to save us from our sins. Our Wednesday Lent worship services begin this week with our Ash Wednesday communion worship service at 6:30pm. During this Lenten series we will also be having four other area CLC pastors guest preaching here at Messiah during the middle four Wednesdays of the Lenten season. (See display on bulletin board in entryway.)

May our Savior bless our Lenten meditations and worship service as we look forward to once again celebrating His triumph over the grave on Easter Sunday.



**Remembrance Lilies for Easter Sunday** - We would like to decorate the altar with lilies on Easter Sunday in celebration of Christ’s resurrection and in memory of loved ones who have died in the Lord and who, in light of Christ’s resurrection, will surely rise again in glory at His return. If you would like to provide a lily in memory of a loved one, let Pastor know and he will include the names in the Easter bulletin.

**Pastoral “Get to Know Each Other” Visits / Pastor Luke’s Contact Info** –I am continuing to make “face to face” visits with our members. These include a short devotion and some time to get to know each other. Wherever is most convenient and comfortable for you will work just fine for me (my office, your home, a coffee shop, etc.). Feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone call if you know of a day and time that will work for you. If I don’t hear from you, rest assured, I will be contacting you! I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know each other better soon! In Christ, Pastor Luke

#### **Pastor’s Contact Info**

Email: [LBerntal@messiahhc.org](mailto:LBerntal@messiahhc.org) ☩ Cell: 402-389-2147 ☩ Church Office: 414-427-9337

**CLC Call News** - Pastor Paul Tiefel, Jr of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has announced his **retirement** as of August, 2025. <> Teacher Amy Mielke of Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac WI. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has **returned** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA.

**Overseas Mission News** - Graduation took place at the BELC Martin Luther Bible School in India on March 25th. Every two years, 25 students complete the two-year, full-time pastoral training program, which is made possible by the Grace of God through Kinship support. The graduates have been called and assigned to serve at either new or established BELC congregations. Additionally, they will begin attending monthly district seminars for ongoing pastoral training. Praise the Lord for providing more workers for India, where the fields are ripe for harvest!

In Christ, Missionary Todd Ohlmann

**Immanuel High School Visitors Day – May 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI will host their annual High School Visitors Day on Friday, May 2, 2025 for students grades 7 and up. A schedule of events and online registration can be found at [www.ilc.edu](http://www.ilc.edu). Please register students and chaperones by Friday, April 25. A theater performance of *The Worst High School Play in the World* will take place on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm. Friday night's play performance will be livestreamed on Youtube with an unlisted link that will be shared via email. The Immanuel Band will perform before the play on Friday at 7:00 pm, and student talent performances will take place Saturday at 7:00 pm. Performances are free and open to the public. For more information please contact Prof. Joel Gullerud ([joel.gullerud@ilc.edu](mailto:joel.gullerud@ilc.edu) 715-544-8446).

**CLC Youth Camp at Pillager, MN - June 8-14, 2025** -

Registration opens **Saturday, March 15th at 10am CST.**

CLC Youth Camp at Pillager is for campers entering grades 6th-12th. Camp runs **June 8-14th, 2025**. For more information please visit our website: <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp>, or contact Amber Casto and Ethan Sydow at [youthcamp.clc@gmail.com](mailto:youthcamp.clc@gmail.com).



**Immanuel Financial Aid Applications** - Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary has a financial aid program that helps students to attend by assisting with loans, multi-student grants, individual student grants, scholarships, and work study. All students are encouraged to submit an application. While the scholarships are automatically applied based upon academic performance, the other aids are provided upon application made by the responsible party. In order to be as helpful and as equitable to all, these forms need to be submitted by the deadline which is May 1, 2025, for the 2025-26 academic year. If any potential student is showing any interest in attending Immanuel, applying now ensures that you will be considered for financial assistance. While applications have already been provided to the families of current students, you may still find them at [ilc.edu/resources/](http://ilc.edu/resources/) under the heading "Financial Assistance Forms & Info."

Bible Readings:	
3/30	Ex. 18 Psalm 85 Rom. 14:1-12
3/31	Ex. 19 Psalm 86 Rom. 14:13-15:7
4/1	Ex. 20:1-17 Psalm 87 Rom 15:8-21
4/2	Ex. 20:18-21:11 Psalm 88 Rom. 15:22-33
4/3	Ex. 21:12-36 Psalm 89 Rom. 16:1-16
4/4	Ex. 22:1-15 Psalm 90 Rom. 16:17-27
4/5	Ex. 22:16-23:9 Psalm 91 Mark 1:1-15



SCAN FOR  
ONLINE  
OFFERING

April Ushers	Cleaning Team (4/5-4/11)
Eric Williams	<u>Team 2</u>
Alex Saunders	D/K Mueller
Philip Reim	BJ Nelson
<b>April Slideshow</b>	K. Nelson
Dave Albrecht	J/B Mueller
	D. Griffen
	J. Schaser

Fruits of Faith*	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings:	\$10,930.30	\$280,415.29
Budgetary Needs:	\$17,142.58	\$325,709.02
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$6,212.28)	(\$45,293.76)
MDF:	\$90.00	\$1,420.00
ILCSAF:	\$100.00	\$1,180.00
MSAF:	\$370.00	\$930.00
CDSIF:	\$300.00	\$3,610.00
MBF:	\$100.00	\$100.00
ILC Building Fund:	\$100.00	\$2,499.75
Kinship:	\$100.00	\$3,091.96

<b>Attendance Last Sun. (3/23): 122</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday (3/26): 67</b>
<b>*Offering totals from 3/16 and 3/23 reflected</b>

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