**Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403 | ​​Phone: (715) 842-3644**

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

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024
Third Sunday in Lent, Year B

Please welcome Kathy Robinson to Immanuel as she leads us in Worship today and Karen Zuidema as she leads us in song and music.

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Introduction**

The third covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the central one of Israel’s history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God’s liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

*Please stand if able.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who writes the law on our hearts,

who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin

in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin**

**and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors**

**are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,**

**forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn **“Built On A Rock” # 652**

Greeting: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

**C: And also, with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

### P: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17**

R: A reading from Exodus.

 *Af*ter escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

1God spoke all these words:
 2I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3you shall have no other gods before me.
 4You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
 7You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
 8Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.
 12Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
 13You shall not murder.
 14You shall not commit adultery.
 15You shall not steal.
 16You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
 17You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

 R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 19**

R: Please read responsively to Psalm 19.

   1The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
  and the sky proclaims its | maker’s handiwork.
 2**One day tells its tale | to another,**
  **and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**
 3Although they have no | words or language,
  and their voices | are not heard,
 4**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,**
  **where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**
 5It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
  it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.
 6**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it**

 **again;**
  **nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**
 7The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
  the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.
 8**The statutes of the Lord are just and re- | joice the heart;**
  **the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**
 9The fear of the Lord is clean and en- | dures forever;
  the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous | altogether.
 10**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**
  **sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**
 11By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
  and in keeping them there is | great reward.
 12**Who can detect one’s | own offenses?**
  **Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**
 13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;
  then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.
 14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your**

 **sight,**
  **O Lord, my strength and | my redeemer.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

R: A reading from 1 Corinthians

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul’s preaching is Christ crucified.

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,
 “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
  and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### *Please stand for the Gospel.*

### Gospel Acclamation “Return To The Lord” pg. 151b

Gospel: John 2:13-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

3The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” 17His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” 18The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” 19Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Pulpit Hymn “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me” # 325**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon Kathy Robinson**

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn of the Day**  **“Canticle Of The Turning” # 723**

*Please stand if able.*

**Apostles’ Creed** *See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.*

*Please be seated.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. After “**Hear Us Oh God**”, please respond with “**Your Mercy Is Great”**.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land (*regions in conflict may be named*). Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family (*especially*). We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**.

P: Gathered into one by the holy spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Sharing of the Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also, with you.**

**Offertory Hymn “Create In Me A Clean Heart” # 186**

### *The usher will bring up the offering plate.*

### *Please stand if able.*

### Offertory Prayer

### P: Jesus, you are the bread of life

### and the host of this meal.

### Bless these gifts that we have gathered

### that all people may know your goodness.

### Feed us not only with this holy food

### but with hunger for justice and peace.

### We pray this in your name. Amen.

**Benediction**

P: May God wrap you in love each night, providing you peace and rest,

And while you sleep may God weave strength & courage into every breath.

May you meet the morning wit resilient vigor, ready for come what may,

And may the light of Christ fill your heart with joy every single day.

May the Spirit shine on you with favor, love, and never-ending grace

And may the Three In ☩ One, bless you on this Lenten journey,

And in every single place.

**Amen**.

**Closing Hymn “God Of Grace and God Of Glory” # 705**

**Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Prayer Concerns: Joan Bonstead’s daughter Tracy, Allen and Karen Spoehr, Grace Berg (For updates, please contact the ILC office.)

A note from the President:

**On March 16, 2024, I, Bob Henning, will be attending a meeting with the two assistances to the bishop to engage in a conversation about consolidation with other churches in Wausau and its impact on our future.**

**On Monday, February 19, 2024, our church council agreed to establish a Task Force that would be able to hold conversations with any other churches that may be interested in consolidation.**

**This Task Force would have 4 – 5 members to represent us. So far, I have three members interested. If you would like to be a part of this group, please contact me as soon as possible.**

*We need a new Worship Chairperson to assist with the organization of all future worship services and music as well as a part-time pianist/organist. (please see Bob Henning if you have suggestions)*

*Fridays through Lent: Lenten Organ Meditations put on by the Wisconsin River Chapter American Guild of Organists.* Zion Lutheran Church 12:15 – 12:45 pm.

* March 1st…Irene Beethe
* March 8th Susan Schaefer and Susan Bender.

March 28,2024. Maundy Thursday service is being offered at Good Shepherd Lutheran at 6:30 pm.

March 29, 2024. Good Friday service is being offered at St. Stephen Lutheran at 6:30 pm.

The Men’s Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Attendance on 02/25/2024: 29

*Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Email for Pastor:* *nkalesto@gmail.com*

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| **March 2024** |
| **Worship Leader: Kathy Robinson** |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER**  | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 3/3/2024 | Karen Zuidema | Al Solomonson | Bruce Knox | V |  |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** |

***\*Next week’s schedule***

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| **March 2024** |
| **Worship Leader: Pastor Tryphine Schruba** |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER**  | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 3/10/2024 |   | Adam Doede | Bob Doede | V |   |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** |

 Last Sunday to sign up For Easter Flowers! The Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex!

**Does The Bible Mention Lilies?**

Lilies are mentioned or alluded to several times in the Bible. Some think that it was white lilies that sprouted in the Garden of Eden as Eve's remorseful tears fell to the ground. There are also theories that Easter lilies grew where Jesus's tears and blood fell from the cross, and lilies were supposedly found in the Garden of Gethsemane after the crucifixion. For example, in Matthew 6:25-29, Jesus says, "Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

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