

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone: (715) 842-3644

<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year C



Please welcome Kathy Robinson as she leads us in Worship today.

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

Please stand if able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.
We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #807

Greeting: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalm: Psalm 32

R: Please read responsively to Psalm 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile! R**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you
forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of
trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them. R**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ^l me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ^l of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ^l you should go;
I will guide you ^l with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ^l understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ^l not stay near
you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations ^l of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ^l in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ^l in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ^l true of heart. **R**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
R: Word of God. Word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

“Return To The Lord”

pg. 142

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Pulpit Hymn

“God Loved the World”

#323

Sermon

Kathy Robinson

Silence for reflection.

Hymn of the Day

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

#608

Please stand if able.

Apostles’ Creed

See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Sue Schwede

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After “God, in your mercy,” please respond with “receive our prayer.”

A brief silence.

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Hymn

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

#186

The usher will bring up the offering plate.

Please stand if able.

Offering Prayer

P: Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those

treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Blessing

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”

#333

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Attendance on 3/23/2025: 29

Prayer Concerns: Joan Bonstead, Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. Leora Mitchell, Joan Winterhoff, Karen Spoehrs. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

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

Serving us Today

Leader: Kathy Robinson

Organist/Pianist: Dr. Kartika Putri

Reader: Sue Schwede

Usher: Mike Schwede

Video Recorder: Bob Henning

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, and Pattie Bricko



**EASTER
SERVICES**

**St. John Lutheran Church, 5304 44th
Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401**

- **Lenten Dinners at 5pm** (Every Wednesday in Lent – excluding Holy Week) March 5, 2025 – April 9, 2025
- **Lenten Services at 6:30pm** (Starting with Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025 – April 9, 2025)

Holy Week

- **Thursday, April 17 at 6:30** - Maundy Thursday Service
- **Friday, April 18 at 6:30** - Good Friday Service
- **Easter Sunday, April 20 - Services at 8:00 and 10:30, breakfast at 9:00**

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, 150202 County Rd NN Wausau, WI 54401

- **Lent** will begin with Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, when we will mark the beginning of the 40 days of Lent together. Pr. Rich Block will preside over these services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm with the Handbell Choir playing at 6:15 pm.
- **Lenten Soup Supper.** Wednesdays 1-6 pm | **March 9-April 9** in Fellowship Hall. It is time once again to share in fellowship and soup supper. There will be 3 soup varieties each week along with a vegetarian option. The weekly “Network” will list the soups for the upcoming Wednesday. Please join us after the noon Lenten service or before the evening Lenten service. All are welcome.

First English Lutheran Church, 402 N 3rd Avenue Wausau, WI. 54401

- **Lenten Services:** Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., beginning March 5, 2025
- **Maundy Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. with Holy Communion
- **Palm Sunday:** 9:00 a.m.

- **Good Friday:** 1:15 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday:** 2 services, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

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.

Food Pantry Donations for the Neighbors' Place

Place your items on the black cart next to the pew near the Gathering Room and they will be delivered to the Neighbors' Place.

Monday, March 31, 2025, 6pm: I wanted to personally invite you to a community meeting at **St. Stephens Lutheran Church** to discuss how we as congregations can assist Tracy R in her role with the Wausau PD and getting people into permanent housing (We will be meeting downstairs at SSLC). This is open to all congregations in hopes that we can collaborate with her and make a difference in the community one person at a time. Please bring any questions that you may have for Tracy in regard to the homeless situation and how we can better assist her. – From Shauna

🚌 The Marty Bus is in desperate need of blankets/sleeping bags, tarps and backpacks.

40 Days 40 Items

In observance of the Lenten Season, many people choose to “give up” something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. An alternative to or perhaps in addition to this observance is to “take on” something new.

You can collect an item for each day of Lent—40 days yields 40 much-needed items in our community for many organizations. You will make a profound impact on your community while you are reflecting on your life and making personal changes.

Please consider contributing the following shelf stable food to your local food bank, clothing or hygiene items to those that need it. You can bring these items to church and place them in the appropriate donation location, and we will sort and distribute at the end. Items collected will then be distributed amongst Neighbors Place, The Marty Bus, Women’s Community and Community Clothing Closet.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Peanut Butter | 2. Socks |
| 3. Canned Meal with Pop Tops | 4. Canned Chicken/Tuna |
| 5. Pasta | 6. Spaghetti Sauce |
| 7. Cereal | 8. T-Shirts |
| 9. Canned Vegetables | 10. Canned Fruit |
| 11. Oatmeal | 12. Applesauce |
| 13. Pants | 14. Spices/Sauces |
| 15. Jelly | 16. Juice/Juice Boxes |
| 17. Flour, Sugar or Oil | 18. Sweatshirts |
| 19. Side Dishes | 20. Soup |
| 21. Popcorn/ Snacks | 22. Hamburger Helper |
| 23. New Tarps | 24. Baked Beans |
| 25. Granola Bars/Protein Bars/Pop Tarts | 26. Water |

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 27. Laundry Soap | 28. Toilet Paper |
| 29. New Underwear/Boxers | 30. Instant Mashed Potatoes |
| 31. Microwave Meals | 32. Crackers [i.e. Saltine or “Ritz”] |
| 33. Cake Mix with Frosting | 34. Walking Shoes without holes |
| 35. Individual Drink Mixes ex. Propel | 36. Tooth brush/Toothpaste |
| 37. Paper Towel | 38. Bath Soap |
| 39. Shampoo/Conditioner | 40. Deodorant |

Please bring your donations to any of the following four church locations:
St. Stephens, Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, or Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you
have questions feel free to reach out to Shauna Robinson, 608-514-4504,
nutband@gmail.com