

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Nobody Loves Me Like You

Morning, I see You in the sunrise every morning;
It's like a picture that You've painted for me, a love letter in the sky.
Story, I could've had a really different story;
But You came down from heaven to restore me, forever saved my life.

Chorus: Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus.
I stand in awe of Your amazing ways,
I worship You as long as I am breathing.
God, You are faithful and true, nobody loves me like You.

Mountains, You're breaking down the weight of all my mountains;
Even when it feels like I'm surrounded, You never leave my side. *Chorus*

Bridge: Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song to sing!
Oh, what a song to sing! Now we join and sing: *Chorus*

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus, I stand in awe of Your amazing ways.
Nobody loves me like You! Nobody loves me like You!

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer
Praise Team: Annette Carbaugh, Praise Leader
Todd Phillips, Keyboard; Pau Thupha Thang, vocals
Tobias Wise, KoKo Oo, Peter Czubakowski, Jason Miller, Instrumental
Acolyte: Anthony Keen
Elder: Jerry Schlund

The Gathering

The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025



Emanuel Lutheran Church

www.emmanuelnh.org
749-2163

Central Lutheran School

www.cluth.org
493-2502

Emanuel Lutheran Church is a united and growing family of Christians joyfully dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom.

† The First Sunday in Lent †

WELCOME to those visiting us this Lord's Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY ~ Everyone, please sign in! We ask guests to include your address, zip code and phone number so that we may acknowledge your visit.

AS WE GATHER ~ "Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness" (1 Timothy 3:16). As we have now entered the forty-day pilgrimage of Lent, we approach the most climactic event of our Lord's earthly ministry, the one that confused and frightened the first followers of Jesus and perhaps even some to this day. The expectation of the establishment of the kingdom of God with Jesus, the Son of God, seated on a royal throne as ruler was demolished as they witnessed their Rabbi, Master, and Lord taken captive, convicted, tortured, and executed on that Passover in Jerusalem.

The cross has always been an offense. To this day, the same mystery stands: His royal throne is but a frightful cross of crucifixion—His kingdom hidden to the eyes. When confronted with the facts of God's Word, many cannot see past this mystery. Yet it is the power of God's Word that gives people the gift of faith and new eyes to see what was incomprehensible and secret now revealed by the Spirit of God. God's truth is that in the death of Christ, redemption and forgiveness of sin now avails for the entire world. Sinners are delivered, justified before God by faith in the blood of Jesus shed on the cross and given the ability to repent and believe and become children of God for eternity. For sinful mankind, this life-giving truth is impossible to believe or understand. Only because of the mighty Word of God proclaimed to the world by His church and by the power of the Spirit is that otherwise mysterious Word actually easy and powerful to understand and to believe.

PRE-SERVICE PRAISE

As It Is In Heaven

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Come and let Your glory, come and let Your glory fall.

Our Father who art in heaven, the rocks cry out Your fame.

So come and let Your glory, come and let Your glory fall.

I will sing, sing a new song. I will sing, sing a new song.

I will sing, sing a new song to the Lord.

Refrain: **Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Every heart proclaim the mercy of Your name on earth as it is in heaven.

God give us through every morning, mercy as daily bread.

In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus we pray.

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And lead us not to temptation, but deliver us with Your hand.

In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus we pray. Father we pray. *Refrain*

Bridge: **For the kingdom is Yours, and the power is Yours,
And the glory forever, Amen.** *Repeat 3 times, then Refrain*

WELCOME/SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING SONG

Lord, I Need You

Lord, I come, I confess, bowing here I find my rest.

Without You I fall apart, You're the One that guides my heart.

Chorus: **Lord, I need You, oh, I need You, every hour I need You.**

My one defense, my righteousness, Oh God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are.

And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me. *Chorus*

Teach my song to rise to You, when temptation comes my way.

And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay. *Chorus*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

(Psalm 124:8; Romans 10:13, 10; Psalm 91:9)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

People: For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Pastor: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith and confess our sins unto God our Father, that we may receive His forgiveness.

People: O God, we believe Your Word is true for it reveals our sin for which we deserve Your rebuke and judgment. Yet even more, we believe in Your promise of mercy and forgiveness for the sake of Christ. We therefore confess to You all our sins. We plead the suffering and sacrifice of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the all-sufficient price of our redemption, and beg Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of faith in our Savior alone. Hear us in Your mercy and according to Your promise in Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: “Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge,” upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PSALM 91:1-13

Pastor: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

People: I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Pastor: For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

People: He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Pastor: You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

People: nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Pastor: A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

People: You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

Pastor: Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—

People: no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

Pastor: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

People: On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Pastor: You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light my strength my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace**

**When fears are stilled when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This Gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save,
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied—
For every sin on Him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay, Light of the World by darkness slain,
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (ESV)

¹“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.

⁵“And you shall make response before the Lord your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O Lord, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

EPISTLE READING

Romans 10:8b-13 (ESV)

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 4:1-13 (ESV)

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written,
“You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.””

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’

¹¹and

“‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat

You’re the Light unto my path.

SONG OF THE DAY

Whom Shall I Fear?

You hear me when I call, You are my morning song.

Though darkness fills the night it cannot hide the light. Whom shall I fear?

You crush the enemy underneath my feet.

You are my Sword and Shield, though troubles linger still. Whom shall I fear?

Chorus: I know Who goes before me, I know Who stands behind,

The God of angel armies is always by my side.

The One who reigns forever, He is a Friend of mine,

The God of angel armies is always by my side.

My strength is in Your name for You alone can save. You will deliver me,

Yours is the victory. Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? Chorus

And nothing formed against me shall stand. You hold the whole world in your hands. I’m holding onto Your promises. You are faithful, You are faithful. Repeat, then Chorus

MESSAGE

God’s Own Fool

STATEMENT OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

And 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 thence 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.