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

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

Sunday, February 18, 2024  
First Sunday in Lent, Year B

Please welcome Kathy Robinson to Immanuel as she leads us in Worship and Pastor Doug Helling helps us celebrates Holy Communion today.

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Introduction**

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah’s family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole 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.**

**Kyrie “Lord Have Mercy” pg. 147**

**“This is the Feast” (Do Not Use for lent) pg. 149**

Opening Hymn **“Jesus Still Lead On” # 624**

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, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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:** **Genesis 9:8-17**

R: A reading from Genesis.

*Today’s reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

8God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

**Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10**

R: Please read responsively to Psalm 25.

1To | you, O Lord,  
  I lift | up my soul.  
 2**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**  
  **nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**  
 3Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
  rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.  
 4**Show me your | ways, O Lord,**  
  **and teach | me your paths.**    
 5Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
  for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.  
 6**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,**  
  **for they are from | everlasting.**  
 7Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
  remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,

O Lord.  
 8**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;**  
  **therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**    
 9You lead the low- | ly in justice  
  and teach the low- | ly your way.  
 10**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness**  
  **to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22.**

R: A reading from 1 Peter.

*As God acted through Christ’s suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

18Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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: Mark 1:9-15**

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God’s reign.*

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”  
  
 12And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.  
  
 14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon Kathy Robinson**

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn of the Day**  **“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word” # 517**

*Please stand if able.*

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

*Please be seated. (change for standing)*

**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 “**Here us O God**”, please respond with “Y**our mercy is great**”.

A brief silence.

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people (*especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today*). **Hear us, O God**.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. **Hear us, O God**.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. **Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. **Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. **Hear us,** **O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. **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**.

**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, bread, and wine.*

### *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.

**Holy Communion Pastor Doug Helling**

### Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy pg. 153**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

### Invitation to Communion

Christ spreads a table before you. Gather here with all the saints.

*All are welcome at the Lord’s table. We believe Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine, that is his body and blood are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. If you do not wish to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward during the distribution of communion. If you are unable to come forward during distribution and wish to receive communion, please let the usher know and the pastor will come to your seat. Wine and grape juices are available as well as gluten free wafers upon request.*

*Please be seated.*

**Communion Hymn “Lamb Of God” pg. 154**

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

### Blessing after Communion Pastor Doug Helling

### P: May the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen your faith and give you the assurance of forgiveness and unite you with Christ and one another.

### Prayer after Communion Kathy Robinson

P: Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

*Please stand if able.*

**Benediction (Kathy Robinson)**

P: Beloved,

we are God’s own people,

holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you,

shower you with mercy,

fill you with courage,

and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” # 504**

### Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Prayer Concerns: Joan Bonstead’s daughter Tracy, Judi McGill, Allen

and Karen Spoehr, Doug and Nancy Helling and family, Joyce Lohr (For updates, please contact the ILC office.)

February 23, 2024. Wisconsin River Chapter of the Associate Guild of Organists presents 5 mini-recitals on Fridays during Lent, entitled Lenten Meditations. Friday the 23rd will be George Felty.

Wednesday February 28, 2024. Lifeline Screening will be held in the fellowship hall. To Register for an appointment, call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC.

*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)*

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.

Time For Easter Flowers! Sign up sheet is in the Narthex!

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

Attendance on 02/11/2024: 35

*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*](mailto:nkalesto@gmail.com)

***\*Going forward into March and the rest of the year, there will be only one Holy Communion held on the 3rd Sunday of the month.***

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| **February 2024** | | | | | |
| **Worship Leader: Kathy Robinson and Pastor Doug Helling** | | | | | |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER** | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 2/18/2024 | Karen Zuidema | Sue Schwede | Mike Schwede | V | Joanne Distelhorst |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** | | | | | |

***\*Next week’s schedule***

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| **February 2024** | | | | | |
| **Worship Leader** | | | | | |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER** | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 02/25/0224 |  | Adam Doede | Bob Doede | V |  |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** | | | | | |

A purple cross with a sun behind it

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Refocus for Lent

Give up Complaining—focus on Gratitude.

Give up Harsh Judgements—Think Kind Thoughts.

Give up Worry—Trust God to Provide.

Give up Discouragement—be full of Hope.

Give up Bitterness—turn to Forgiveness.

Give up Hatred—Return Good for evil.

Give up Anger—be more Patient.

Give up Pettiness—Become Mature.

Give up Jealousy—Pray for Trust.

Give up Gossiping—Control your Tongue.

Give up Sin—turn to Virtue.

Give up Giving up—Persevere

***A calendar with a cross and a flower

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