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

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

Sunday, March 10th, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year B

Please welcome Pastor Tryphine Schruba to Immanuel as she leads us in Worship today.

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Introduction**

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today’s gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

*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 **“Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross” # 335**

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: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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: Numbers 21:4-9**

R: A reading from Numbers.

 *Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

4From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” 6Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

**Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

R: Please read responsively to Psalm 107.

  You deliver your people from their distress. *(Ps. 107:19)*

 1Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good,
  for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.
 2**Let the redeemed of the | Lord proclaim**
  **that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**
 3gathering them in | from the lands;
  from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
 17**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;**
  **through their sins they | were afflicted.**
 18They loathed all man- | ner of food
  and drew near | to death’s door.
 19**Then in their trouble they cried | to the Lord**
  **and you delivered them from | their distress.**
 20You sent forth your | word and healed them
  and rescued them | from the grave.
 21**Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your | steadfast love**
  **and your wonderful works | for all people.**
 22Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
  and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

R: A reading from Ephesians.

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives.*

1You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—9not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 3:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today’s first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] 14“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
 16“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
 17“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Pulpit Hymn “God Of Mercy, God Of Light” # 714**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon Pastor Tryphine Schruba**

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn of the Day**  **“What Wonderous Love Is This” # 666**

*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.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. *Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth’s fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. *Hear us, O God*.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love (*especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today*). Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. *Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. *Hear us, O God*.

**Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. *Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. *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 with 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 “When I Survey The Wonderous Cross” # 803**

**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, Jamie Heckendorf’s family (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 15—Patrick Burkhart and Jim Holt*
* *March 22—Bryan Higgans-Moe*

March 24, 2024. Palm Sunday The Bell Choir will be playing at Immanuel.

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. March 29, 2024. Our Bell Choir will be playing Good Friday at St. Johns at 6:30 pm.

*March 31, 2024. Easter Service will be here at Immanuel at 10:30 am.*

Food For Thought: “As with many things…God places the right people in the right situation in God’s perfect timing.” This comes from the story of a congregation that closed and how they were able to assist organizations they were familiar with by using their leftover resources. (The article is on the bulletin board.)

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 03/03/2024: 39

*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*

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS014524. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

|  |
| --- |
| **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** |

***\*Next week’s schedule***

|  |
| --- |
| **March 2024** |
| **Worship Leader** |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER**  | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 3/17/2024 | Karen Zuidema | Dan Zinsmeister | Mike Schwede | V | Joanne Distelhorst |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** |

***“Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-***

 ***finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready***

 ***for all the good things he now has in store.”***

***― N.T. Wright***

******