

First Sunday in Lent

THEME: Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil on our behalf. This is the best news for us.

HYMN 431: *"I Walk in Danger All the Way"*

SERVICE OF THE WORD — Page 38

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 22:1-18

God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son. Abraham is willing to surrender the son he loves, showing that he fears God.

22:1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife.

As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8

Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 6 (p.66) (sung in unison)

This penitential psalm brings us an anguished appeal for mercy that ends in an expression of confidence.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:31 — 39 (sermon text)

This is an argument from the greater to the lesser. Since God is for us, and since he did not spare his own Son to free us from the condemnation of sin, none of the troubles we have in this life can separate us from God's love.

8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." (Psalm 44:22)

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." (Matthew 4:10b) or

CHOIR: "=====

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:12 — 15 (Please Stand)

Christ defeats Satan at the beginning of his public ministry; this victory is a prelude to the defeat of Satan's power on Mount Calvary. Jesus then begins preaching the good news.

1:12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, 13 and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. 14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

HYMN 419: *"If God Himself Be for Me"*

SERMON THEME: It's a Win — Win Situation

1. God sent His Son as our Savior 2. Jesus' death means I'm no longer guilty 3. Nothing can separate us from His love

APOSTLES' CREED — Page 41

OFFERING HYMN 485 Verses 1 & 2: *"We Give Thee but Thine Own"* (Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 202: *"If God Had Not Been on Our Side"*

BENEDICTION

HYMN 468: *"My God, My Father, Make ME Strong"*

SILENT PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serving Us Today ~ February 18, 2018

Guest Organist: Marjean Schroeder

Ushers: John Hornig, Matt Fink, Larry Stowe & Doug Zellmer

Altar Guild: Jan Nelson, Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer



Due To Many Upcoming Meetings Scheduled in February, Our New Four-Week Sunday Bible Class has been pushed back to March 4th after our Worship Service. We will be focusing on our new-born Savior-King who promises to make everything new. This will be a one-hour Bible study. Materials will be provided.

Our Building & Grounds Committee will hold a meeting *next Sunday* following our worship service. Committee members and *anyone else interested* in joining our group is welcome to attend this meeting.

2018 Mid-week Lenten Services and Suppers: Pre-service soup suppers are being planned in our Fellowship Hall at **5:45 p.m. starting February 21st**. Sign-up sheets are located in our Fellowship Hall. Please get involved and try something new! This is another opportunity for food, fun and fellowship with Immanuel members (and visitors). Donations of disposable bowls, spoons and napkins are appreciated. Mid-week Lenten service will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

Looking Ahead/Ladies' Guild: Tuesday, March 20, our ladies will meet to plan and discuss our Easter Breakfast. Join us if you have ideas or would like to be involved. Also, LG will be participating at the Winter Farmer's Market on April 14. Any congregational member wishing to donate any of their delicious baked goods would be greatly appreciated. More information will be forthcoming as these events approach.

Our Worship Services are now available on DVD for anyone to view and return. Please talk to Karl Luft or Pastor if interested.

2017 Annual Reports are located near our guest registry for anyone interested in obtaining a copy.

The Annual Men of His Word Conference will be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Keynote speaker scheduled is Pastor Jared Oldenburg. Please see our bulletin board or go online at www.menofhisword.org to register and to get details about schedules, sessions, costs, etc.

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS		THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL	
Budgeted per week	\$3,517.00	Office Hours	Tue., Wed & Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Budgeted Received 02-11-18	\$3,622.07	Monday	6:30 p.m. GriefShare
Budgeted needed to date	\$21,102.00	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. Bible Class
Budgeted received to date	\$16,132.07	Wednesday	4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
		Wednesday	5:45 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
		Wednesday	6:30 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Service
		Wednesday	7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Worship Attendance 02-11-18	94	Thursday	Dartball
Sunday School 02-11-18	4	Sunday	9:00 a.m. Communion Service
Bible Class 02-13-18	12	Sunday	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
Ash Wednesday Service		Sunday	10:00 a.m. Buildings & Grounds Mtg.