

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

*February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday*



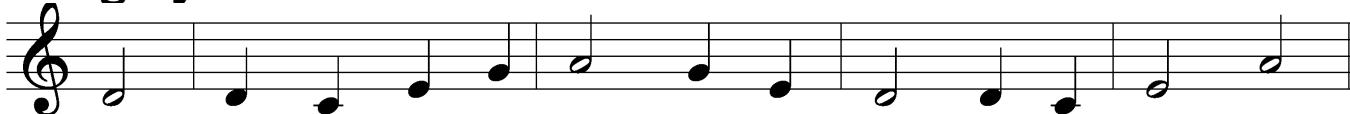
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Opening Hymn #526

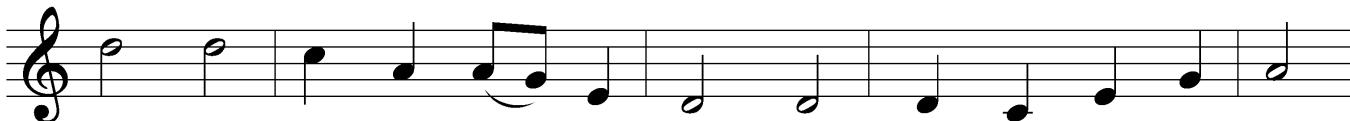
“What Wondrous Love Is This”



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse
down be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown
Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme,
free, I'll sing his love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty



for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
I will sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Lynchburg, 1811, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Invocation and Introduction to Confession

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

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in fellowship with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

Confession

M: Most holy and merciful Father,
C: **we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have placed our wants before your will.
We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.
We have merited your punishment now and forever.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives
C: **we confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people, our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves
C: **we confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us
C: **we confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
C: **forgive us, Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,
C: **forgive us, Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
C: **forgive us, Lord.**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
C: **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

Psalm 141

CW 217



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift-ing up
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702769

M: Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Reading

Isaiah 59:12–20

M: ¹²For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.

Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:

¹³rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

¹⁴So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.

¹⁵Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

¹⁶He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.

¹⁷He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

¹⁸According to what they have done,
so will he repay
wrath to his enemies
and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.

¹⁹From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.

For he will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the LORD drives along.

²⁰“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”
declares the LORD. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

“*Touch Me With Ashes*”

Reading

2 Corinthians 7:8–13a

M: ⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³By all this we are encouraged. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

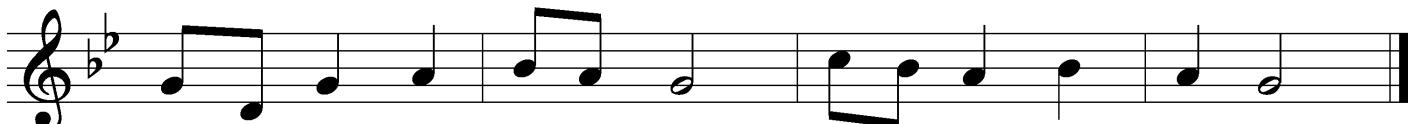
Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Joel 2:13



Refrain



C: Praise to you, Lord Je-sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

M: Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

C: *Refrain*

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

M: ¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

16“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

19“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

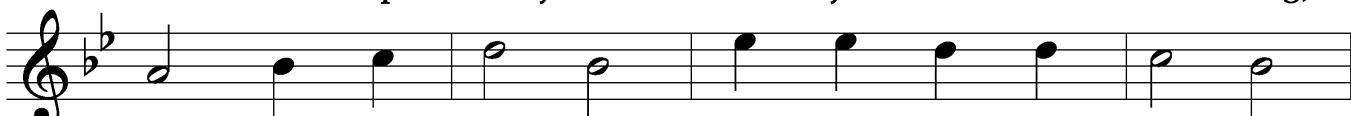
C: Thanks be to God.

Be seated.

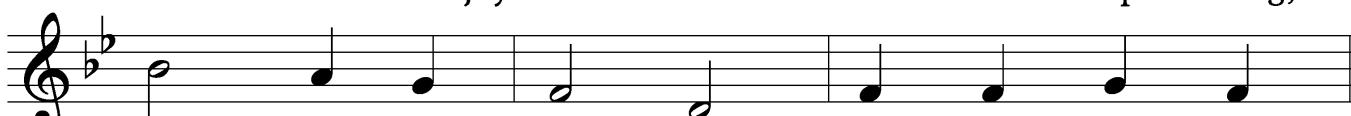
Hymn #432 sts. 1-4, 6 “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken”



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken
2 They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!
6 I'll think up - on your mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,



that such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken?
with cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge you;
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish;
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;
that earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;



Of what great crime have you to make con -
they give you gall to drink, they still de -
yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in -
the Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants
to do your will shall be my sole en -



fes - sion, what dark trans - gres - sion?
cry - you; they cru - ci - fy you.
her - it, this I do mer - it.
owe - him, who would not know him.
deav - or hence - forth for ev - er.

Reading

Zechariah 13:7–9

M: ⁷“Awake, sword, against my shepherd,
against the man who is close to me!”
declares the LORD Almighty.
“Strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered,
and I will turn my hand against the little ones.
⁸In the whole land,” declares the LORD,
“two-thirds will be struck down and perish;
yet one-third will be left in it.
⁹This third I will put into the fire;
I will refine them like silver
and test them like gold.
They will call on my name
and I will answer them;
I will say, ‘They are my people,’
and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’ ” (NIV)

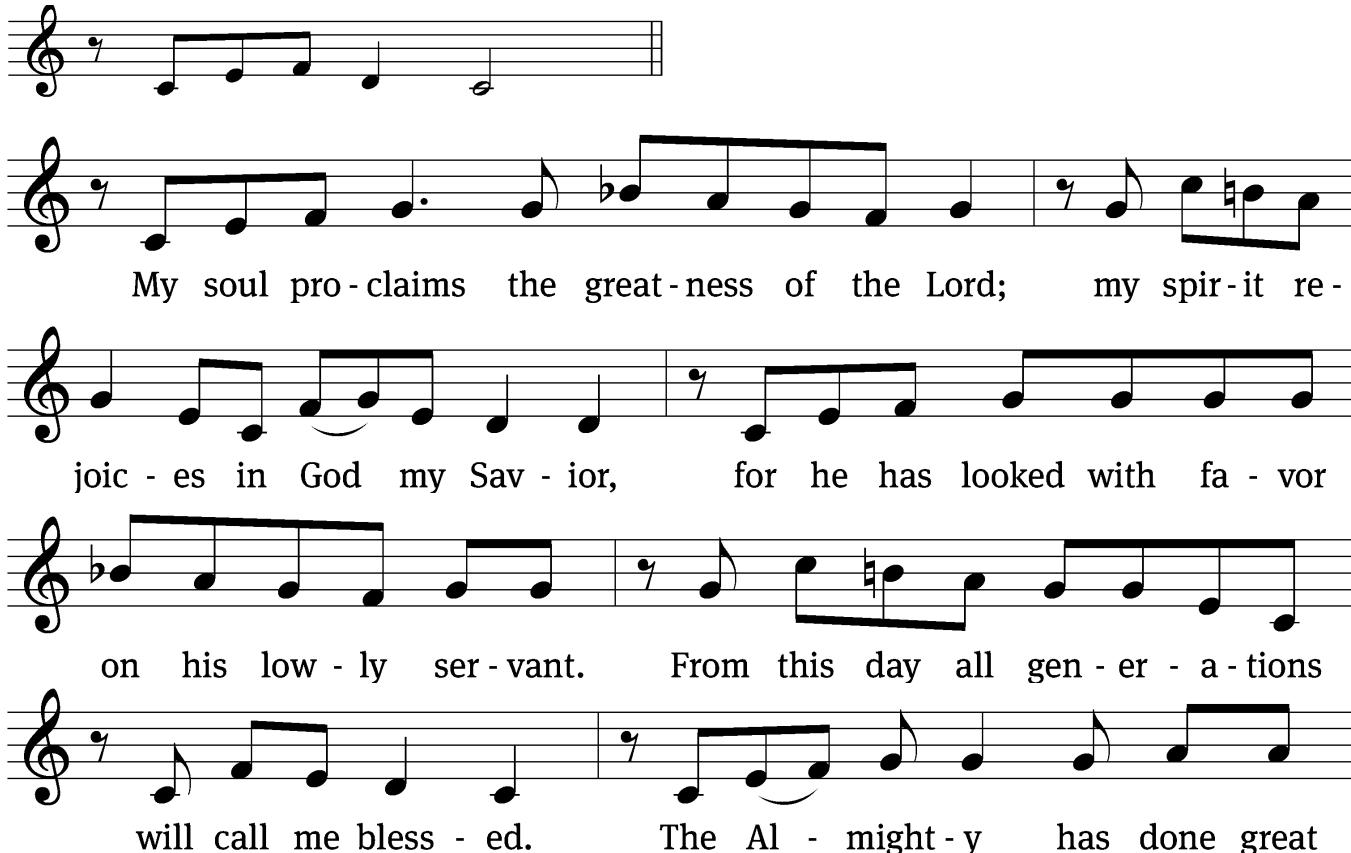
Sermon

“Scattered Sheep”

Please stand.

Song of Mary

CW 220



My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord; my spir - it re -
joic - es in God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with fa - vor
on his low - ly ser - vant. From this day all gen - er - a - tions
will call me bless - ed. The Al - might - y has done great

things for me, and ho - ly is his name. He has mer - cy on
those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.

He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat - tered the
proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y
from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.

He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
to A - bra-ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Be seated.

FRIENDSHIP CARD is available by the entrances. If you are watching on-line please go to the description link and sign in.

FREEWILL OFFERING The offering plate is located by the back entrance. You may also give electronically via our website: immanuelfindlay.org or the App: GivePlus.

Prayer

M: Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus that, through repentance and faith in the gospel, they may remain secure in your love.

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

C: Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

M: Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

C: Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

M: Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

C: Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

C: Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. [We pray especially for...] If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

C: Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant

incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

M: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.**

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #867

"Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near"

1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
 3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
 4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -

gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
 con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
 your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
 flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -

lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
 flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain

Refrain

So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the

vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;

yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Acknowledgments Evening Prayer from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

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Lenten Services begin on Wednesday, February 18 with the Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM. We will have a meal at 5:30 PM before each of the Lenten services. Please sign up for the meal so enough can be prepared. Sign up sheets for all the meals are at the back of the church.