

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

*February 28, 2024*

*Mid-week Lent 3*



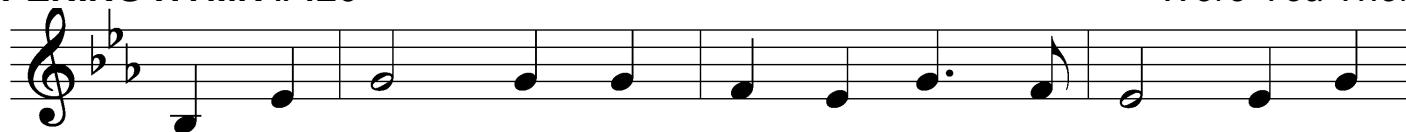
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OPENING HYMN #426

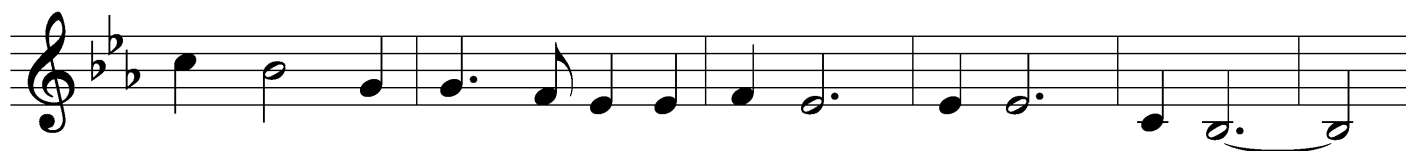
“Were You There”



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you  
 3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh,  
 there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh,  
 there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh,



some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
 some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
 some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*Text: African-American spiritual, 19th cent., abr.  
 Tune: African-American spiritual, 19th cent., alt. Text and tune: Public domain*

Please stand.

OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1*

M: O Lord, open my lips,

**C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

**C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

M: The Lord be with you.

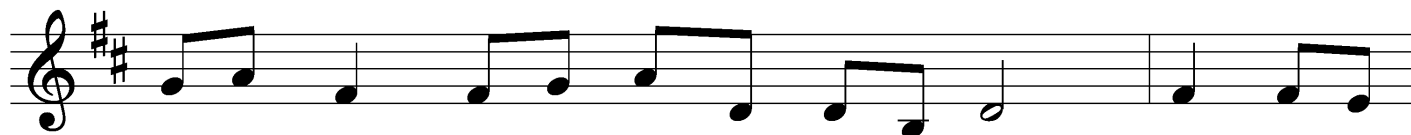
**C: And also with you.**

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



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, 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.

*Be seated.*

### THE PASSION HISTORY READING, III

M: They brought Jesus first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there, and brought Peter in. It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus replied,

**C: "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."**

M: When Jesus had said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. He demanded, "Is that any way to answer the high priest?" Jesus replied,

**C: "If I said something wrong, testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"**

M: Then Annas had Jesus sent, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Finally, two came forward and declared,

**C: "We heard him say, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days. I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'"**

M: Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you? But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied,

**C: "Yes, it is as you say. But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."**

M: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him, and struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" They said many other insulting things to him and the guards took him and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him and said,

**Women:** "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus. Are you not one of this man's disciples?"

M: But he denied it before them all,

**Men:** “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about”

M: Then he went out to the gateway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around,

**Women:** “This fellow is one of them.”

M: Again he denied it, with an oath,

**Men:** “I don’t know the man!”

M: About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the olive grove?”

Then Peter began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them,

**Men:** “I don’t know what you’re talking about”

M: Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

Very early in the morning, the chief priests with the elders, the teachers of the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. He said, “I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood.” They replied,

**C: “What is that to us? That’s your responsibility.”**

M: So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said,

**C: “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money”**

M: So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by the prophet was fulfilled:

**C: “They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”**

*(NIV)*

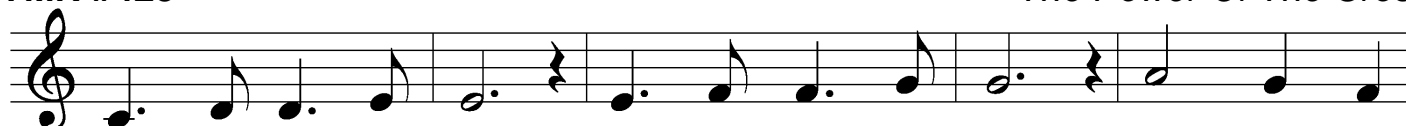
## **SEASONAL RESPONSE**

*Isaiah 53:6,5*

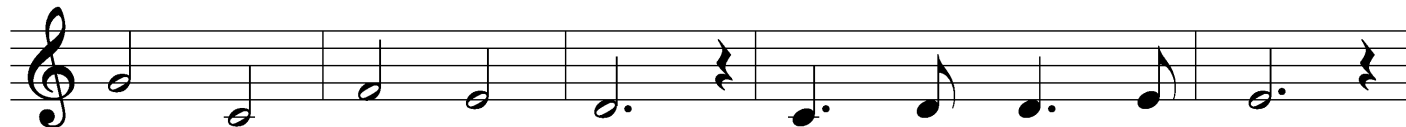
M: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

**C: and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

M: By his wounds we are healed.



1 Oh, to see the dawn of the dark - est day: Christ on the  
 2 Oh, to see the pain writ - ten on your face, bear - ing the  
 3 Now the day - light flees; now the ground be - neath quakes as its



road to Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men,  
 awe - some weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought,  
 mak - er bows his head. Cur - tain torn in two,



torn and beat - en, then nailed to a cross of wood.  
 ev - 'ry e - vil deed crown - ing your blood - stained brow.  
 dead are raised to life; "Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.

*Refrain*



1-3 This the pow'r of the cross: Christ be-



came sin for us. Took the blame,



bore the wrath; we stand for - giv - en at the cross.

- 4 Oh, to see my name  
 written in the wounds,  
 for through your suff'ring I am free.  
 Death is crushed to death;  
 life is mine to live,  
 won through your selfless love! (Final Refrain)

**Final Refrain** This the pow'r of the cross:  
 Son of God—slain for us.  
 What a love, what a cost!  
 We stand forgiven at the cross.

## SERMON TEXT

Luke 23:26–34

<sup>26</sup>As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

<sup>28</sup>Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’

<sup>30</sup>Then

“ ‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”  
and to the hills, “Cover us!” ’

<sup>31</sup>For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup>Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals— one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. (NIV)

## SERMON

*God on Trial: Sympathy*

**Friendship Card** is available on the tables by the entrances and in the mailboxes of members. If you are watching on-line please go to the description link and sign in.

**Offering** The offering plates are located by the entrances. You may also give electronically on our website: [immanuelfindlay.org](http://immanuelfindlay.org) or the App: GivePlus.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Prayers of intercession may follow.*

M: Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are

overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

**C: Amen.**

### LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**C: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen**

### BENEDICAMUS

**M: Let us praise the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

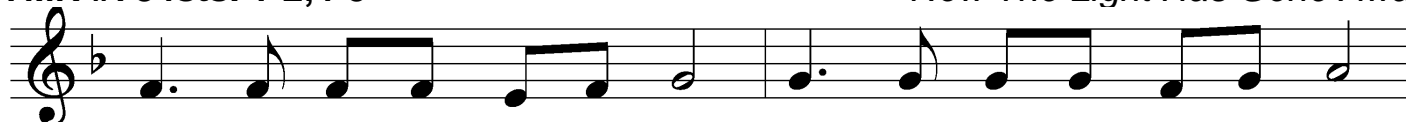
### BLESSING

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

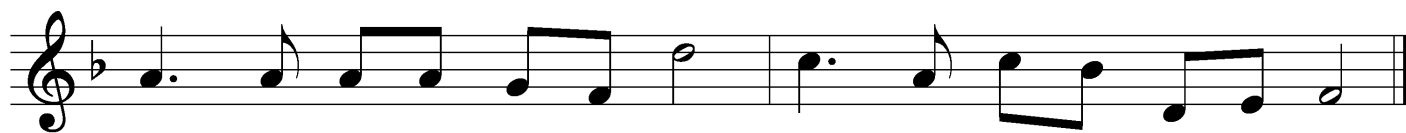
**C: Amen.**

### HYMN #784sts. 1-2,4-5

*"Now The Light Has Gone Away"*



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,  
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way all that I've done wrong to - day.  
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; you once died that I might live.  
5 Ah, my best and kind - est Friend, you will love me to the end.



ask - ing you to watch and keep and to send me qui - et sleep.  
Make me ev - er more like you, good and gen - tle, kind and true.  
All your pre - cious gifts are free— oh, how good you are to me!  
Let me love you more and more, al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

*Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.*

*Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, Kaiserswerth, 1842*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

**Thank you** to Pastor Kurtis Freimuth of Peace Lutheran in Deshler for leading our worship this evening.

**Accompanist:** Connie Krueger

**Lenten Services** will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 PM. A meal will be held each Wednesday @ 5:30 PM; please sign up if you may attend.