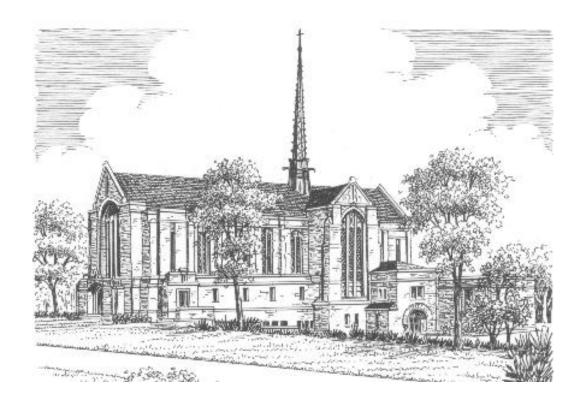
# **Immanuel Lutheran Church**



Charles Minetree, Pastor
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# **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Maundy Thursday
New Covenant Promise
April 9, 2020
12:00 p.m.



# THE VISION STATEMENT FOR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

As the body of Christ, renewed by the Holy Spirit as a living community of believers, we are committed to sharing the love of Christ and the good news of salvation. We build relationships with others in the **Community Around Us**, while nurturing the **Community Among Us**, so all may know of and grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

#### **GOD'S MISSION FOR IMMANUEL**

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a community of God's people <u>rooted</u>, nourished, and educated in the Word of God, to include all people in its fellowship for the sake of Christ, and for their **eternal salvation**.

# **WELCOME VISITORS!**

The Immanuel Lutheran congregation is pleased that you have joined us today. If you have no church home, we invite you to make your home among us.

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL: All Services are live streamed only until further notice. The live stream is available over Immanuel Lutheran Church, Baltimore's Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/Immanuel-Lutheran-Church-Baltimore-MD-259497214072957/).

# YOUR PLEDGE AND OFFERING

Immanuel's leadership reminds you that your offering is still essential to our congregation. We continue to support our pastors and staff. Even though the building is empty, there are still obligations to meet. We ask that you do what you can to honor your pledges. Electronic giving through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund giving program is strongly encouraged. Please call Laura Higgins for more information on setting up this account. You may also use US Mail services to send in your offering. There is also a donate button on our website (immanuellutheran.org). Thank You.

# Laura Higgins contact information during quarantine:

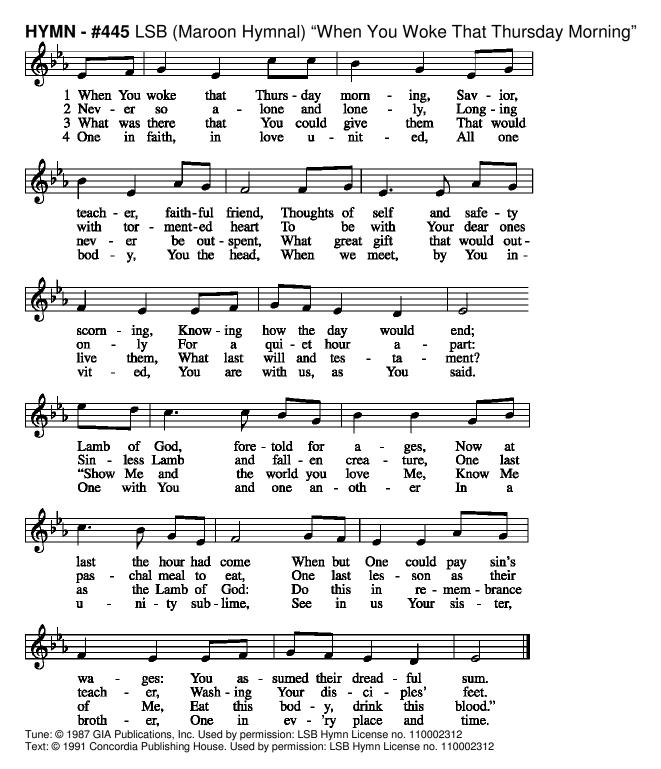
Cell Phone: 410-227-5316 Home Phone: 443-402-0176

Home address: 680 Kirkcaldy Way, Abingdon, MD 21009

# **AS WE GATHER**

Holy Thursday begins the great three days that commemorate how God accomplished our salvation in Jesus Christ. The first part of the service is confession and forgiveness, the culmination of the Lenten season of repentance. Holy Thursday then recalls two central events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. First is the Lord's Supper. The Gospel tells of the Holy Thursday night when, during the Passover meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is My blood." He then took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My blood of the new covenant." The old covenant involved regular repeated animal sacrifice. This new covenant involves the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus' blood, which fulfilled the old covenant once for all. We now share this Meal regularly in remembrance of Jesus' all-availing sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The second central event recalled tonight is the abandonment of Jesus by all who loved Him. This is remembered by the action of stripping the altar while Psalm 22 is sung or read. This reminder of how Jesus was forsaken also assures us that Jesus is with us at times when we feel forsaken.

# **▼ PREPARATION**



# **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ♥ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

#### CONFESSION

Pastor:

People of God, we struggle against sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have intensified the struggle begun at Baptism to daily die with Christ and also to rise daily in Christ to live anew. In this struggle we have been reminded again that we are weak and Christ is strong. We need the forgiveness of our sins in order to live as the people God has called us to be.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor:

Assured of God's love for us through our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sin against God and our neighbors, so that we enter these three days, so central to our faith, reconciled to God and to one another.

People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor:

The Word of God is living and active. Words of forgiveness spoken in the name of Jesus do what they say. Come, receive the forgiveness won for you by the blood of Jesus.

# **CORPORATE ABSOLUTION** *Psalm* 103:11–13

Pastor:

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. now and forever.

People: Amen.

# ₩ WORD ₩

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Exodus 24:3-11

(Moses seals the covenant with the Lord.)

<sup>3</sup>Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." <sup>4</sup>And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup>And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup>Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." <sup>8</sup>And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. <sup>11</sup>And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE**Hebrews 9:11–22

(Jesus is the high priest of the new covenant who give His own blood, rather than the blood of animals, to secure eternal redemption.)

<sup>11</sup>When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

<sup>15</sup>Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup>For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup>For a will takes effect

only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup>Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup>For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup>saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." <sup>21</sup>And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup>Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 26:17–30

(Jesus declares the bread to be His body and the cup to be His blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>17</sup>Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup>He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" <sup>19</sup>And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup>And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup>And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup>He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup>Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

<sup>26</sup>Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

<sup>30</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



# **SERMON**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Gathered by the love and remembrance of Jesus, we offer our prayers to

God.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: For the Church, that the celebration of the Lord's Supper renew and

strengthen us; that by our love for one another, the world may know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, that pastors and teachers follow the example

of Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless, that God use us to reach out to

them and lift them up, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those preparing for Holy Baptism, that the love of Christ deepen and

grow in their hearts and lives, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who have lost their faith and for those who struggle to believe, that

during these holy days they be filled with Christ's light and peace, let us pray

to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the sick, the dying, and the mourning, help them to trust in the promise

that nothing—not even sickness or death—can separate us from the love of

God in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all of us, gathered on this holy night, that, nourished by the body and

blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, we forgive those who have

wronged us and love one another from our hearts, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Hear the prayers of Your people, merciful God, for the sake of the One who

stretched out His arms on the cross to redeem Your people and to reconcile

the whole creation, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

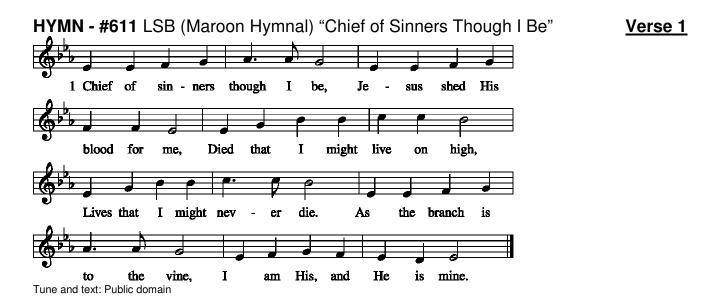
People: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

[The church is darkened. The pastor and assistants remove Communion vessels, paraments, candles, banners, flowers, and any other adornments on the altar and in the chancel.]

#### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR Psalm 22

The Psalm is read or sung by the pastor or cantor.

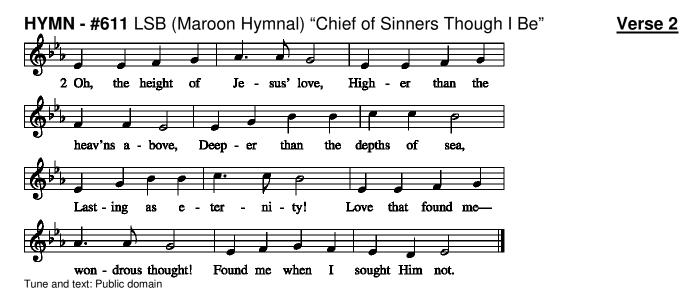
Lector 1: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?
O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.



Lector 2: Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In You our fathers trusted;

they trusted, and You delivered them.

To You they cried and were rescued;
in You they trusted and were not put to shame.



Lector 1: But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads; "He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!" Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made me trust You at My mother's breasts. On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother's womb You have been My God.

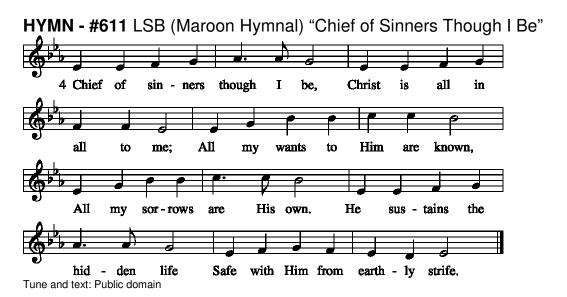


Lector 2: Be not far from Me, for trouble is near,

and there is none to help.
Many bulls encompass Me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround Me;
they open wide their mouths at Me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it is melted within My breast; My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws; You lay Me in the dust of death.

For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My hands and feet—I can count all My bones—they stare and gloat over Me; they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.

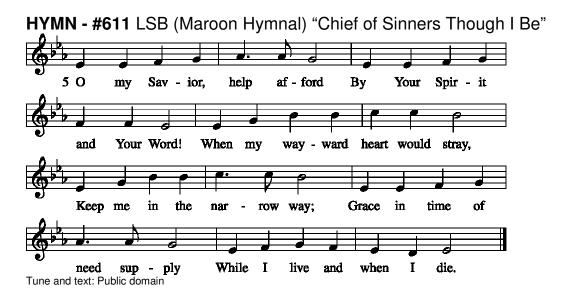


Lector 1: But You, O LORD, do not be far off!
O You My help, come quickly to My aid!
Deliver My soul from the sword,
My precious life from the power of the dog!
Save Me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen!

I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:

Verse 4

You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!
For He has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and He has not hidden His face from Him,
but has heard, when He cried to Him.



Verse 5

Lector 2: From You comes My praise in the great congregation;
My vows I will perform before those who fear Him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek Him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before You.
For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and He rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. Posterity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it.

#### All leave in silence.

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