


Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

WELCOME TO EMANUEL

**Whoever you are, wherever you are from,
we're glad you're here!**



- If you are here for the first time, please make a **nametag** for yourself in the Welcome Area (located outside the entrance to the worship space) so we can greet you by name. Please provide your **contact information**, either in our guestbook on the desk in the Welcome Area or by using this QR code, so that we can keep in communication with you. 
- **Restrooms** are located downstairs outside our fellowship space, Luther Hall. You can use the elevator or the stairs to get to the lower level. Please join us for **refreshments** in Luther Hall following the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** and **pew cushions** are available in the Welcome Area.
- **Children are always welcome at worship at Emanuel! Children's bulletins** and **activity bags** are available in the Welcome Area. If you need more space for your child to move about, feel free to bring them into the Welcome Area to give them room to be active. If you prefer, **supervised childcare** for children ages 6 months to 4 years is provided in our Nursery downstairs in Luther Hall.
- **Sunday School** for children in kindergarten through 6th grade takes place during worship, September through May, and your child is welcome to participate. Sunday School teachers and students depart downstairs for class after the Prayer of the Day and return to worship in time for Holy Communion.
- All are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. Gluten free wafers are available as an option on the small silver tray held by the assistant in the center of the aisle. Red wine and non-alcoholic white grape juice are both offered in each communion tray.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister Pastor Mark Olsen
Worship Leader Vicar Christine Pelfrey
Assisting Minister..... Maureen Leyes
Reader..... John Foote
Communion Preparers..... Diane and Gary Troutman
Director of Music Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

EMANUEL MUSICIANS

Rebekka Almond, David Altschuler, Sarah Asmar, Hillary Ekwall, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard, Morgan Hunt, Kathryn Lees, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama, Hannah Maynard, Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Jeff Roets, Austin Tewksbury, Anna VanDeBerg, Pastor Nancy Wright

AV TECHNICIANS

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat

Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives and enhance our worship.

Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone

INTRODUCTION

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate One,

C: **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

L: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C: **Amen.**

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com-mand
 3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all-suf-fi-cient grace
 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de-pend.

An-cient of ev-er-last-ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil-grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, to heav'n as-cend.

“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con-fessed;
 I all on earth for-sake— its wis-dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your-self my God!
 I shall be-hold your face; I shall your pow'r a-dore,

I bow and bless the sa-cred name for-ev-er-blest.
 and you my on-ly por-tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je-sus' blood.
 and sing the won-ders of your grace for-ev-er-more.

5 Though nature's strength decay,
 and earth and hell withstand,
 to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
 at your command.
 The wat'ry deep I pass,
 with Jesus in my view,
 and through the howling wilderness
 my way pursue.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.
 Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

*KYRIE

Verse 1, 3 Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.
Verse 2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of the covenant,

C: **in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The children are now dismissed for Sunday School.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O LORD GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants

be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O LORD GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:17—4:1

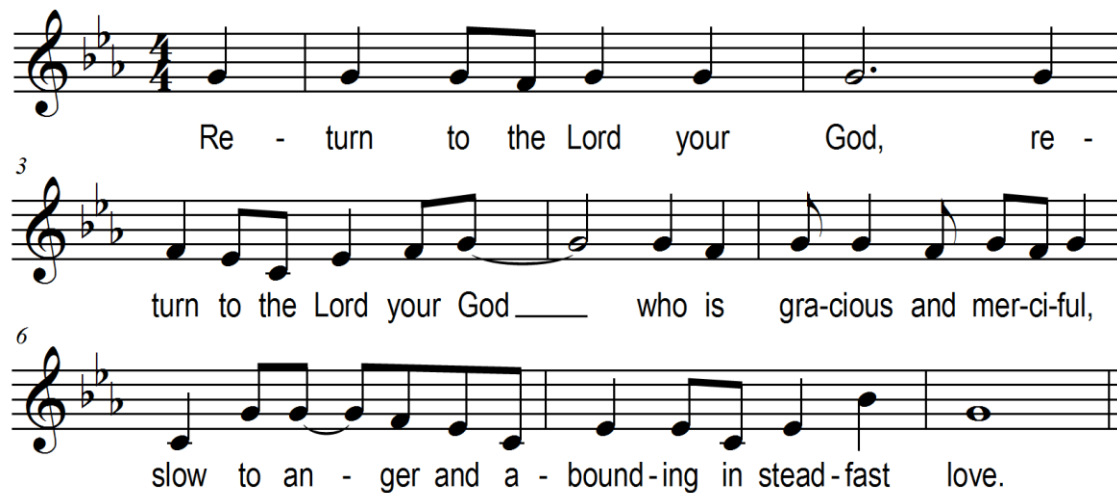
Although Paul’s devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord your God, re -
3 turn to the Lord your God _____ who is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
6 slow to an - ger and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

GOSPEL: LUKE 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Mark Olsen



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413

Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

*APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 The holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The congregation is invited to be seated for the prayers. After each petition:

- A: God in your mercy,
C: **receive our prayer.**

*PEACE

- P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

We offer each other a sign of God's peace.

OFFERING MUSIC

Sicut Cervus Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
Emanuel Choir (1525-1594)

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.*

*To make your gift online, scan the code using your
phone's camera or QR scanner app.*

*OFFERING PRAYER

- A: Gracious Provider,
C: **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, ___ God of pow'r, ___ God of
might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glory, ___ Ho - san-na
in ___ the high - est! Blest is he ___ who ___ comes ___ in the
name ___ of the Lord. ___ Ho - san - - - na! ___
___ Ho - san-na in ___ the high - - - est! ___

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All Are Welcome at the Table!

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.

Gluten-free wafers are served by the communion assistant in the middle and white grape juice is available in each communion tray, as needed.

The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.

***LAMB OF GOD**



Christ, thou Lamb of God, who takes a-way the
sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. grant us your peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC ‘Aus Liebe will mein Reiland sterben’
From *St. Matthew Passion*, BWV 244
Sarah Asmar, soprano
Honoka Masuyama, marimba
Hannah Hickman, soprano saxophone

J.S. Bach

*Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben,
Von einer Sünde weiß er nichts.
Daß das ewige Verderben
Und die Strafe des Gerichts
Nicht auf meiner Seele bliebe*

Out of love my Saviour is willing to die,
Though he knows nothing of any sin,
So that eternal ruin
And the punishment of judgment
May not rest upon my soul.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Generous Host,

C: **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you
 lead me, I can-not stray. Lord, let me walk each
 day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am
 help me o - ver my weak-est hour. Help me through the
 aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
 blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways
 dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
 all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
 let me thy ser-vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God!

LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



The Emanuel Food Pantry serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated. For March, we are taking a special Ramadan collection of dates, lentils, chickpeas, basmati rice, olive oil, flour, and sugar.

BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | adminassist@emanuelhartford.org



Serve as Assisting Minister
Coordinator: Maureen Leyes
(860) 212-5492



Assist with Communion
Coordinator: Valerie McDonald
valeriexyz@cox.net
(860) 965-6936



Participate in Music
Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Scan QR for more information

Read the Lessons
Contact Lynn Sherman
lynnsherman480@gmail.com
(860) 550-0518

Parishoners of all ages are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Host Coffee Hour
Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour. Contact Monique Jennings at moniquegray400@gmail.com.



Sponsor Altar Flowers in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers.



Prayer Shawls are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away to someone needing to know we care. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

Connor Mansbach † Jason Gray † Christopher Favreau † Brittany Milano-Martinez

Homebound: Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson † Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Mazmur Sihite and Iman Quansah

HIU Interns 2024-2025

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

March 12, 19, and 26

April 2 and 9



EMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

311 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

We will continue to gather for worship at 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent (March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9) for faith-nurturing worship and conversation. For our worship we will be using Holden Evening Prayer as the setting for a Midweek Lenten Worship Series entitled: "**Beneath the Cross of Jesus.**"

We live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God's manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. Based on the hymn "Beneath the cross of Jesus" (ELW 338), through this midweek Lenten series we will explore what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. During our time of worship each week we will reflect together on the readings and weekly themes by engaging in conversation and discussion led by Pastor Mark and Vicar Christine. *Thought provoking discussion questions and the readings for each Wednesday gathering will be shared in a supplemental issue of the Emanuel News each week.* Please join us for these midweek times of worship as you are able. **All are welcome!**