

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

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. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a **children's message** offered by the preacher during the service in place of Sunday School.
- 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, and we commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. 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 MinisterPastor Brett Betkoski
Director of Music Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister..... John Foote
Reader..... Janice Favreau
Communion Preparers..... Glenna and Chet Brodnicki

EMANUEL MUSICIANS

Hannah Batsford, Jacob Bender, Hillary Ekwall, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard,
Hannah Hickman, Kathryn Lees, GlenEllen Lehmborg, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama,
Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Jeff Roets,
Austin Tewksbury

AV TECHNICIANS

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat, Liz Arcand

*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

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

PRELUDE

Down to the River
Emanuel Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you, gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word, gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit, gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers, gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world, gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life, gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

*GREETING

P: 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

P: Merciful God,

C: **the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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 dismissed for Sunday School.

FIRST READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the

staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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: JOHN 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

P: The holy gospel according to John.

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

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped

on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.”²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.”³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.”³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.”⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.”⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brett Betkoski

The Rev. Brett Betkoski serves as a Faculty Member and Campus Minister at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT. However, his favorite job at present is as a Sunday School teacher among our siblings in Christ at the “other” Emanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester, CT.



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en who served in days of old,
2 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas who served the sick and poor.
3 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.
Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her heart an o - pen door.
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.
Send us, O Christ, your Bod - y, where peo - ple cry in pain,
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro-claimed your pow'r to save.
and touch them with com - pas - sion to make them whole a - gain.
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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***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: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

***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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Emanuel Choir

Thomas Tallis

(c. 1505-1585)

arr. Donald Busarow

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise
And all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I’ll walk
‘Til traveling days are done.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

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: O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. 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: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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

Pie Jesu

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Benjamin Rauch and Stephanie Scarcella, voice

(b. 1948)

Pie Jesu,	<i>Merciful Jesus,</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi,	<i>Who takes away the sins of the world,</i>
Dona eis requiem	<i>Grant them rest.</i>

Angus Dei,	<i>Lamb of God,</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi,	<i>Who takes away the sins of the world,</i>
Dona eis requiem	<i>Grant them rest.</i>

*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: God of our salvation,

C: **we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

*BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

The Water of Change



I've been washed by the wa - ter. I've been cleansed by the sea. I've been



touched by the riv-er of e - ter - ni - ty. Though I don't un - der - stand it, I have



nev - er been the same. I can't turn back the wa - ter, the wa - ter of change. The I



riv - ers they run, the riv - ers they roll a - way.
won - der a - loud where in the world I might be



The voice of life whis - pers ev - 'ry - day. At the
had the cross not been shown to me. It's—



heart of it all ev - 'ry - one wants to be free,
o - pened my heart, made me look out - side and see



free to live, free to love for e - ter - ni - ty. I've been
I can no long - er live for on - ly me.

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***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

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 asking for donations of canned tuna.

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

Coordinator: Lynn Sherman
lynnsherman480@gmail.com
(860) 550-0518



Serve as Usher

Contacts:
Bob Graulich (704) 996-1717
Rick Liljedahl (860) 280-6580

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 and your dedication will be listed in the bulletin.



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 † Tracey Sherman † Christopher Favreau †
Erin and Joshua Morelli

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

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**Rachel Blank, Natalie Fulmer, and
Maeghan O’Laughlin**
Nursery Staff

Rachid Chelali
Sexton

Tammy AbuZant, Dimitrios Passalidis
2025-2026 HIU Interns

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