



Lutheran Church of the Incarnation

Service of Holy Communion

March 11, 2018 10:00AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

A **WARM WELCOME** is extended to all who are visiting with us today. We hope that your worship experience is meaningful and that you will come again. We invite you to fill out a Welcome Card located in the pew and place in the offering plate. If you're looking for a church home, we encourage you to contact Pastor Jane or the church office (803) 256-2381.

Visit www.incarnationlutheran.com for bulletins, online giving, and more

Wifi Access: ILC_Members_5G

PW: @ilc1921

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Theme and Four Variations on *Wer nur den lieben gott lässt walten*, Op. 55
Christian Heinrich Rinck (1770-1846)

The assembly stands and faces the Processional Cross.

CONFESSION

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,
forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence.

O God, hear us.

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

O God, hear us.

We acted when we knew better.

Silence.

O God, hear us.

We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence.

O God, hear us.

For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

People of God, look to the ✝ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life! **Amen.**

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Vieme to, Panez Bože náš

Leader



Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.

1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tránovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: ZNAME TO, PANE BOŽE NAŠ, *Tranoscius*, 1636
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME ALL AGES of children are invited to come to the altar steps for conversation and bucket offering.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

It is sung by all, with the congregation singing the bold verses.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
- ²**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim**
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,
- ³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
- ¹⁷**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;**
through their sins they | were afflicted.
- ¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death's door.
- ¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD**
and you delivered them from | their distress.
- ²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.
- ²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love**
and your wonderful works | for all people.
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

THE SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

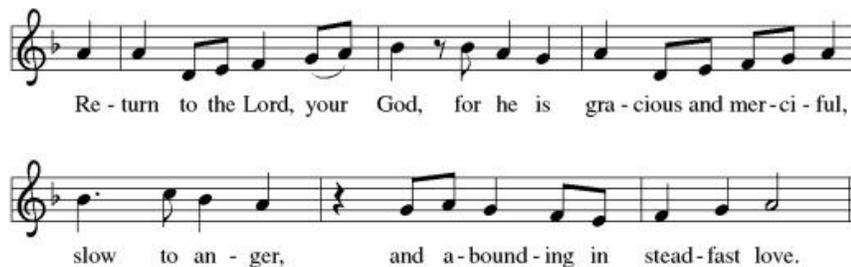
While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

Jesus said:] ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

THE SERMON

SEMINARIAN ETHAN OVERCASH

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY 759

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

Renewed in the promise of baptism, let us pray for the church, world and all who are in need. Kneeling as you are able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends, "Lord, in your mercy." All respond, "hear our prayer."

PEACE *The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

ANTHEM:

"God So Loved the World"

John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him
should not perish, should not perish
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
God sent not His Son into the world
to condemn the world;
But that the world through Him might be

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider as the offering and communion elements are brought forward.

Create in Me a Clean Heart Offering Song

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it."

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Great Thanksgiving

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness
With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the
mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

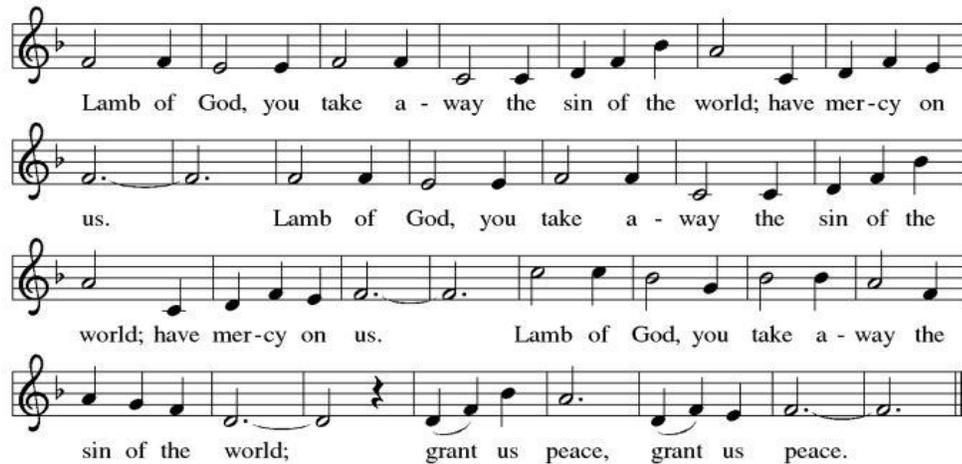
COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in communion, trusting that Christ promises to be truly present. Whole wheat communion bread is served. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Red communion wine is served: the first cup is a common cup (for drinking from) and the second cup is for intinction (dipping the bread). Those unable to partake of both elements are assured that the Church affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. Those who choose not to receive Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
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COMMUNION HYMN 666

What Wondrous Love is This

WONDROUS LOVE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God, send us out to be Christ's body in the world, sharing what we have heard and seen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Wer nur den lieben gott lässt walten, Op. 135a/28

Max Reger (1873-1916)

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Welcome to worship, welcome to Lent, welcome to this journey that takes us to a beautiful destination – resurrection morning – but before we can get there, we have to journey, and we have to journey with our sin. Resurrection, we know, doesn't begin with toppled stones, empty tombs, fragrant lilies, and trumpet calls, it begins first with death. That is where we start here on day one. We don't start with Jesus' death, we start with death itself for all of us. We start with woundedness and betrayal, things done and left undone, with the understanding that dust and disaster and deceit are all around us.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers:	Team 3
Lay Assistant:	Mel Eargle
Communion Assistants:	Shirley Lindler, TBA
Crucifer:	Amy Kehl
Acolytes:	Lisa Mooney, Gabi Nester
Lector:	Russ Jackson

BIRTHDAYS

Carlene Acosta 03/16, Ashlee Boepple 3/14, Russ Jackson 3/12, Lee Muller 03/15,
Abigail Murdock 03/12, Amanda Sawyer 03/14, Elizabeth Spratlin 03/17

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00am-11:15am: Worship
 11:30am-12:15pm: Sunday School in CDC building
 12:15pm – 12:30pm Music with Ethan
 11:30am-12:30pm Adult Class – Ten Commandments – Gathering Room (Parlor)
 11:30am-12:30pm Worship Reflections – Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

5:30 Supper
 (\$6 pp adult, \$4 pp children 12 and under, \$20 per family) Cash/Check Only
 6:15 Lenten worship and drama "The Trial of Judas"
 7:00 - 7:45 Handbell choir rehearsal following the service
 7:50 - 8:30 Adult choir rehearsal

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS SPECIAL EVENT

TRIAL OF JUDAS! Our Wednesday Lenten worship service this year is based on the trial of Judas. You, the congregation, are serving as the jury and the question before you is this: IS GOD'S GRACE SUFFICIENT--EVEN FOR JUDAS? Each week you are listening to witnesses for both the defense and prosecution as they are interviewed and then on the last Wednesday, you will cast your vote! You don't want to miss this! Meal at 5:30; Worship at 6:15.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 25 at 10:00am
Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 6:15 pm
Good Friday, March 30
Resurrection Lutheran at 12Noon
Incarnation at 6:15pm
Holy Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 am

Easter Sunday
Breakfast 8:00 am
Festival Service 10:00 am

Dates to Remember

Holy Guacamole Gathering - Thursday, March 22 6pm
Golden Agers - Sunday, April 15
Scout Sunday - April 22
Newberry College Sunday - April 29
CDC Sunday - May 6

We welcome Dr. Patrick Hawkins this morning as our guest organist. Dr. Hawkins will be with us thru April 1 Easter Sunday.

Congregational sympathy is expressed to the family of Randy Yaussy and Kim Kerrick on the death of Randy's father, Jim Yaussy. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Stay informed about all the happenings at Incarnation. Are you receiving our weekly email newsletter (The Incarnation Informer)? If you're not receiving our weekly email newsletter *The Incarnation Informer*, please contact the church office (803)-256-2381 or email: office@incarnationlutheran.com

The 2018 Incarnation Congregational Retreat will be held at the Coastal Retreat in Isle of Palms, SC May 18 – 20. Space is limited, so don't delay reserving your space. A \$100 deposit is needed to secure your space. The balance is due April 15th. Please make your check payable to Incarnation Lutheran Church. Note in the memo line: Beach Retreat. Each room at the Coastal Retreat Center sleeps up to four people and includes a private bath and a mini fridge. Cost per room per night for two nights. \$100/\$200. Questions welcomed! For more information or to register, contact: Janet Hoffmann: 803-727-7202 email: jmhoff@bellsouth.net or Emily Black: 803-467-4032 email: emily.duncan4@gmail.com

Financial Update:	Actual	Plan	Difference
Last Week	\$ 3,598	\$ 4,479	\$ 881-
Year-to-Date	\$ 32,206	\$ 40,312	\$ 8,106-

We are in the process of updating our homebound list. If you have family members whose name should be on this list, please let the office know (803) 256-2381 or email: office@incarnationlutheran.com. We would need address, phone number, and whether or not they would like to receive communion monthly at home. Thanks so much!

Current Concerns

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Wallace (father of Leslie Skinner), The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Assistant to Bishop, Family of Randy & Kim Kerrick, the Miller Family, Carol Taylor, Mary Kehl, Walter Lindler, Merle Parker, , Ken Hoffman (brother of Janet Hoffman), Sandra Pouncey (friend of Janet Hoffman), Cecilia Eaddy (CDC mother), Dot Bowden, Delores DeJames (mother of Jeff DeJames), Sarah Parker (Mike Parker’s mother), Bobby Wierich, Harry Evans, and Alden Pratt

*If you would like to submit a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office.
We will be glad to add it to the prayer list for a period of one month.*

Pastor Jane Mitcham
Interim Pastor
pastor@incarnationlutheran.com

Dr. Patrick Hawkins
Guest Organist

Ethan Overcash
Youth Minister
youth@incarnationlutheran.com

John Edwards
Interim Parish Administrator
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Teresa Boykin
Director of Child Development Centers
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Amy Kehl
Bookkeeper
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