

**Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**Ash Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

*The Son of God Goes Forth to War*

**Worship Theme:** We see our Warrior promised by Isaiah.

**Order of Worship:** The Common Service (p. 15)

**Opening Hymn:** 93 *“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”*

**Prayer of the Day**

**M:** Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 59:12-20 (EHV)

*From the Lord’s point of view, our sin leaves us in an impossible situation. No truth can be found in us. Only the intervention of his son could pay the insurmountable debt.*

59:12 Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you, and our sins testify against us. Our rebellious deeds are with us, and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.

Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against the LORD. We turn back from following our God. We incite oppression and apostasy. We conceive and mutter deceitful words from our hearts.

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away, for truth stumbles in the city square, and honesty cannot enter it.

The truth is missing, and anyone who turns from evil makes himself prey. The LORD looked and saw something evil - there was no justice.

He saw that there was no one. He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene. So his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness supported him.

He clothed himself with righteousness like armor and wore a helmet of salvation on his head. He dressed in garments for vengeance, and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak.

He will repay in full what they have earned, namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his enemies. He will repay even the distant coastlands.

From the west they will fear the LORD’s name, and from the rising of the sun they will fear his glory, for he will come like a raging river, driven by the Spirit of the LORD.

Then a redeemer will come for Zion and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion. This is the declaration of the LORD.

**Psalm of the Day:** Psalm 51a (p.86) (sung in unison)

**Psalm Prayer:**

**M:** Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen. (spoken)

**Second Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2 (EHV)

*Paul urges us that there is no time like the present to hear God’s gracious word of salvation.*

5:20 We urge you, on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says: At a favorable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

**The Gospel:** Luke 18:9-14

*The truth of the matter is, only humble repentance produced by faith in our Savior, Jesus, allows us to stand justified before God.*

18:9 Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’ “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**Nicene Creed** (p. 18)

**Sermon Hymn:** (Insert) *“The Son of God Goes Forth to War”*

**Sermon Text:** Isaiah 42:13 (EHV)

*“The Lord will set out like a hero. Like a warrior, he will work himself into a frenzy. He will shout. Yes, he will raise a war cry. He will be heroic against his enemies.”*

**Sermon Theme:** *The Promised Warrior*

1. War clouds had long loomed
2. The promised champion and warrior is coming!
3. The warrior will triumph!

## Offering

Responsive Prayer – on the back cover

Lord's Prayer

The Sacrament (p. 21)

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Post Distribution Hymn: 306 "Before You, God, the Judge of All"

Benediction

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C:** Amen. Amen. Amen. (sung)

**Closing Hymn: 391** "God Loved the World so that He Gave"

## Ash Wednesday—Responsive

**M:** Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.**

**M:** You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

**M:** In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

*Time for silent meditation follows.*

**M:** God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

**C:** **We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

*Next Wednesday, we will continue our Lenten Soup*

*Supper Fellowship at 5:30 p.m, prior to our evening worship.*

*Sign-up sheets are located below the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Please join us!*