

# VALLEYS *of* LENT

*Worship for the  
Sacred Season*

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

**11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Worship Service**  
**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER**

Rev. Marty Marks  
Rev@godwithusilc.org

511 Russell Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115

February 25, 2026  
11am & 7:00 p.m. in-person  
YouTube & Facebook Live

**Ash Wednesday - The Hebron Valley**

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♪ **Pre-Service Music**

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Welcome**

**The opening Hymn “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”**

*---LSB #423*

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.**
  
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner’s deep distress.**
  
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior’s side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

**P** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come?

**C** **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

**P** He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**C** **He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**P** Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared.

**C** **With Jesus by my side, The righteous path I take. I in his flock abide E'en for his own name's sake. He cares for me in all my needs, Through each dark valley safely leads, On verdant pasture richly feeds.**

**P** The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**C** **The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.**

**P** The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**C** **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

**P** Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared.

**C** **When wandering I stray Into some valley deep, My Shepherd finds the way, Restores his wayward sheep To him whose glory fills the skies, Who came to earth in human guise— Unto the Lord I lift my eyes.**

**P** To you we lift up our eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**C** **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy on us.**

### Prayer of the Day

**P** O Lord, though you have created us in love, we have let sin have reign in our hearts. We have lashed out against one another, like the sons of Israel lashed out at their brother Joseph in the Hebron Valley. We have held grudges and been jealous of each other. We have even, at times of weakness, sought to destroy those closest to us. The blood of betrayal is on our hands. We are guilty of great sins. Yet, we ask you for your forgiveness. And in your mercy, though our sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow because of the blood our brother Jesus shed on the cross for us. Let that cleansing blood wash over us and relieve us of the punishment we so justly deserved. Amen.

### The Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 4:1-11*

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it." Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know;

am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Gospel Reading

*John 8:31-47*

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father." They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## The Sermon Text

*Genesis 37:12-28*

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word." So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. So

when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**♪ Sermon Hymn: "Christ, the Life of all the Living"**

*---LSB #420 VI-3*

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**
  
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**
  
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**The Drama- Isreal and The Lord**

*Rev. Marty Marks &  
Ron Feldman (11am)  
Rob Tiggelaar (7pm)*

## The Prayers

**P** You know everything, O God; you know the secret thoughts of our hearts. Deliver us from blood-guiltiness, O God of our salvation,

**C** **And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.**

**P** Deliver us from the envy that turns to hatred, the rage that blinds our eyes and stops our ears, the selfishness that clogs our hearts and freezes our consciences. Deliver us from blood-guiltiness, O God of our salvation,

**C** **And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.**

**P** Let war and strife give place to peace and concord throughout the world, and make us instruments of your peace, those who work for life in the midst of the death that surrounds us. For all humanity in every place we pray: Deliver us from blood-guiltiness, O God of our salvation,

**C** **And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.**

**P** Turn our animosity into the tender concern of a shepherd, that we may care for the sick and the injured, the hospitalized and the homebound, the lonely and despairing, the frightened and the oppressed, and those who grieve. Deliver us from blood-guiltiness, O God of our salvation,

**C** **And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.**

**P** Bring peace and love to the members of our families so that we may live together as sisters and brothers in your one family. Break down the walls that divide, that we may be truly one. Deliver us from blood-guiltiness, O God of our salvation,

**C** **And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.**

**P** And fit us to join that great multitude which no one can number, gathered out of every race and nation, to sing aloud of your deliverance, O God, through your obedient and loving Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

**P** The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

**C** **He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**

**P** He gives power to the faint and to him who has no might he increases strength.

**C** **Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall fall exhausted;**

**P** But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**C** **They shall mount up with wings like eagles,**

**P** They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**♪ The Closing Hymn “When I Survey the Wonderful Cross”**

*---LSB # 425*

- 1** When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.
  
- 2** Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.
  
- 3** See, from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
  
- 4** Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

**Silent Prayers**

**Announcements**

**Postlude**

<b>Participants – February 25, 2026</b>		
Altar Guild: Jackie Hanson		
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Organist</b>	Linda Conrad	Linda Conrad
<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Marty Marks	Rev. Marty Marks
<b>Voice Actors</b>	Ron Feldmann & Pastor Marty	Rob Tiggelaar & Pastor Marty
<b>Videographer/Sound</b>	---	---
<b>Slides</b>	---	---

**TO BE A SPONSOR:** Contact the office to reserve a date.

Cost: \$50 Flowers.

\$250 One-hour radio broadcast of the church service; \$125 Half-sponsorships are also available.

Make your check out to Immanuel, with a notation on the memo line saying, “flowers,” or “radio.”

These checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

**OPEN FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS:** March 8 & 29; April 19; May 10; June 7, 14, 21 & 28

**OPEN RADIO SPONSORSHIPS:** March 22 & 29; April 26; May 3, 24 & 31; June 7, 14 & 21

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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