

VALLEYS *of* LENT

*Worship for the
Sacred Season*

Wednesday, March 18, 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
March 18, 2026

11 am & 7:00 p.m. in-person
YouTube & Facebook Live

Lenten Mid-week Worship 4 – Welcome to “The Valleys of Lent” series in which we look at different valleys from Scripture that point to something about the suffering Christ endured. Today’s Week 4 service reminds us of Isaiah’s proclamation that “Every Valley Shall Be Lifted Up” for the coming of the Lord. Nothing can detour his rescue of us.

The Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- C** Amen

The Responsive Reading

- 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 good and gracious God, the prophet Isaiah prophesied long ago that the Messiah would come and that he would pave the way for a whole new way of life—a life lived for you and a life that would last forever. But there are low points along the way. There are valleys that must be encountered—sicknesses, death, betrayals, breakups, divisions, problems and difficulties of all sorts. Help us this Lent to remember that Isaiah told us that every valley would be lifted up when the Messiah comes. Open our eyes to see that the Messiah has come. Jesus has arrived, and you will lift us out of every struggle through his death and resurrection. Amen.

The First Reading

Hebrews 10:16-25

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

John 10:7-18

P The holy Gospel according to St. John the 6th Chapter

C Glory to You O Lord

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Sermon Text

Isaiah 40:1-15

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

J Sermon Hymn: “Lift High the Cross”

---LSB #837 vs 1-3

The Drama: Isaiah and the Lord

Rev. Marty Marks

Ron Feldman (11am); Dan Lohmier (7pm)

Sermon: “Every Valley Shall be Lifted Up”

Rev. Marty Marks

The Prayers

P When Adam and Eve had fallen into sin, fallen deeply, you came after them, O God, to confront them in their guilt and to offer them your gracious forgiveness. And so you continue to come to us, their wayward children, to restore us to your family, offering us the forgiveness won for us by your obedient Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to prepare your way, O Lord.

C Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low.

P Remove from us all pride and complacency, all envy and anger, all malice and hypocrisy. By the power of your Holy Spirit make us truly repentant, and determined to serve and obey you in everything. Help us to prepare your way, O Lord.

C Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low.

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: Help us to prepare your way, O Lord.

C Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low.

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. Help us to prepare your way, O Lord.

C Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low.

P Raise us at last to accompany your Son into those heavenly mansions prepared for us from the foundation of the world, where we shall join the heavenly hosts in praising you forever and ever. 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.

The Benediction

Isaiah 40:28-31

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 Abide with Me"

---LSB # 878 vs 1-3

Silent Prayers

Announcements

Postlude

Participants – March 18, 2026

Altar Guild: Jackie Hanson

	11:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m.
Organist	Linda Conrad	Linda Conrad
Pastor	Rev. Marty Marks	Rev. Marty Marks
Voice Actors	Ron Feldman & Pastor Marty	Dan Lohmier & Pastor Marty

Rev. Marty Marks, Pastor 815-501-3951; rev@godwithusilc.org

C-J Motisi, Adult Choir Director, LCMS certified Lay Minister cj.cmssc@gmail.com 630-664-8005

Katie Martinez, Pre-School Director, 815-756-6669 (o); LittleLambs@godwithusilc.org

Darlene Hillman, Office Manager, 815-756-6669; office@godwithusilc.org

Alma Sanchez, Secretary, almas@immanueldekalb.com

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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