



Lent

I set my face
unto the
Lord God.

DANIEL 9:3



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
5000 Old William Penn Highway, Export, PA 15632
Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman, Interim Pastor

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020 - 10:15 AM - Audio Service

To participate in this morning's audio service, please follow these instructions:

1. At a few minutes before 10:15 AM, call this number:
(712) 770-5505.
2. When asked for an access code, enter **234426**,
then press "#".

Once the service begins, please mute your phone. In the event of technical difficulties, a notice will be placed on our website www.ourlutheranchurch.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P In the Name of the Father, and the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of heaven and earth, you came among us to make us yours. We come before you to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Silent Confession and Forgiveness of Others

P With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,

C **Forgive us Lord, we have spoken when we should have said nothing. We have acted and spoken when we knew better. We did nothing when we knew we should have become involved and made a difference for you. There are persons we have failed to forgive. For the wrong we have done and for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us and forgive us, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

THE ABSOLUTION

P Because of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord; as a called and ordained minister of Jesus Christ and of his Church, I therefore declare to you, as you truly repent and believe in him, God forgives you all your sins and will one day bring you to eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE KYRIE

C **Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, clear away our blindness and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C We praise you O Christ, because by Your Cross and Passion You Have Redeemed the World.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 9:1-41

ESV p. 1139-1140

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So, he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So, I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His

parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON “Traveling With A Blind Man” Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman



THE APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

A brief silence.

P Holy God, heal the blindness of your Church. Give it eyes to see its own sin and to repent of it. Give it eyes to see the sins of the world, and to offer your forgiveness to any who will receive it. Give it eyes to see the plight of all who are afflicted by the powers of sin, death and the devil, and in words of truth and deeds of mercy, to proclaim your gracious redemption, bestowed through the Passion of your dear Son. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Heal the blindness of those who persecute the followers of Jesus. Grant that all who suffer on account of Christ may be so steadfast in faith and gracious in witness that their tormentors turn to you for forgiveness, and new life. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Be gracious and merciful to your missionaries, to the congregations of our Mission District and to your Church throughout the world. Give us clear sight and strong faith, so that following the way of the Cross, many who are blind to your strong saving love may be led to Jesus and healed. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Let your healing, blessing and grace rest upon the blind and deaf; and upon those with impaired or distorted senses of touch or taste, balance or movement. We often take for granted these gifts; unless it happens to us, we can scarcely imagine lacking them. Forgive us. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

Intercessions

P As your dear Son healed the man born blind, we pray for healing, light, hope and renewed faith to everyone who suffers from any affliction. Especially, we lift up the needs of Donna, Gene, George, Jean, Josh, Kevin, Kim, Marcia, Betty, Ron, Philip, the families of Carolyn and Stanley and our shut-ins Ingeborg, Lois, Mo and Marian. We ask for blessings on those members we are holding in prayer this week: June, Dan, Cherie, Dale, Alice and Daniel. Give them the joy of your saving help, now and always. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE 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.**

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the Name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

PRAYING FOR YOU

June Ugen, Dan & Cherie Wolovich, Dale & Alice Hartley, Daniel Kolonay

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

If you would like to add or remove someone from the Prayer List or Prayer Chain, please feel free to contact the office at elcna1c@gmail.com or 724-327-2190.

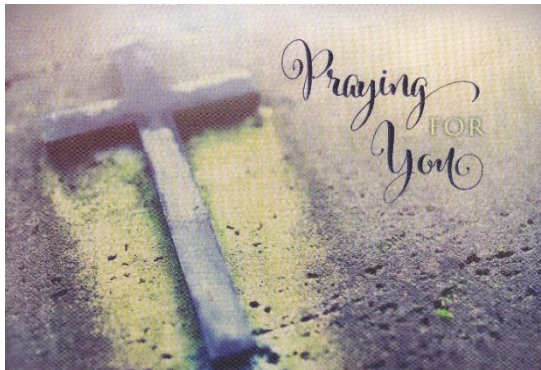
✠ *Denotes Eternal Glory*

MEMBERS OF EMMANUEL:

**Donna Berardinelli, George Campagna, Mo Lysher,
Gene Seidling,**

FRIENDS OF EMMANUEL:

Marcia Briggs (Friend of the Woodwards), **Kevin Folts** (Friend of Ron & Susan Smith), **Kim Kuzior** (Niece of Judy Sieg), **Betty** (Friend of Betty Ridenour), **Philip Shaul** (Father-in-law of Ron and Susan Smith's son Brandon), **Jean Wilson** (Friend of the Whipkeys), **The Families of ✠Stanley Miller** (Uncle of Ron Smith) and **✠Carolyn Voithofer** (Friend of Karen Kuczek)



Members in Service

Members in Service	Fourth Sunday in Lent 3/22/2020 Audio Service 10:15 AM	Lenten Midweek Service Wednesday 3/25 /2020	Fifth Sunday in Lent 3/29/2020 (On Site Church Service TBD) 10:15 AM
Presider	Rev. Al Towberman	Rev. Al Towberman	Rev. Al Towberman
Assisting Minister		Fred Schamber	Fred Schamber
Acolyte			Joe Ugen
Greeters			Dave & Jeanne Yargar
Ushers			Dave & Mary Whipkey
Altar Guild			Dan & Danette Hunter
Counters			Jim Lewis & Ed Datasch
Communion Assistant			Karen Flood

Thanks to all who serve!
If you are interested in serving,
please contact the office.

THIS WEEK AT ELC

Sunday, March 22	10:15 AM Audio Worship Service* Easter Flower Orders Due Today! Please see order form on next page and mail or email your order to elcnaic@gmail.com or fax to the office at (724)-327-0306
Monday, March 23	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM AA – HH
Tuesday, March 24	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Office Hours
Wednesday, March 25	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Office Hours 10:30 AM – 6:00 PM Pastor Towberman’s hrs. 11:00 AM eNews Deadline 7:00 PM Lenten Midweek Audio Service* 7:00 PM AA - HH
Thursday, March 26	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Church Office Hours
Friday, March 27	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Office Hours
Saturday, March 28	No activities

- Due to the cancellation of all services at ELC through March 28, we have prepared for call-in Audio Services on Sunday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 25. To participate in worship, please call this number a few minutes prior to the service from any phone: (712) 770-5505. When asked for an access code, enter 234426, then press “#”. Please mute your phone during the services to keep out any distracting background noises. In the event of technical difficulties, a notice will be placed on our website www.ourlutheranchurch.org

Easter Flowers 2020

See prices below for Easter flowers this year. They **MUST** be picked up **AFTER** the 10:15AM Easter Morning Worship Service unless otherwise marked below to be left for homebound.

Please submit orders by Sunday, March 22, 2020
(No orders can be accepted after this date!)

Easter Lily (White)	Tulip (Variety of Colors)	Mums	Hydrangea			Azalea		Daffodils	Hyacinth (Variety of colors)
		White	Blue	Pink	White	Pink			
\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$13.50	\$13.50	\$13.50	\$13.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	
Total # of Plants:	Total # of Plants:	Total # of Plants	Total # of Plants:	Total # of Plants:	Total # of Plants	Total # of Plants	Total # Of Plants:	Total # Of Plants:	

Please make check payable to Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Indicate that the check is for Easter Flowers in the memo section.

Please place orders with payment in the offering plate, the Secretary's mailbox, or mail to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 396, Export, PA 15632.

Please print and use the exact words you would like to be included in the Easter bulletin:

Name: _____

Number of Plants: _____ \$ enclosed: _____

Phone #: _____

Would you like to leave you flowers for **homebound**: **YES** or **NO**

To the Glory of God: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



- Sunday, March 22** 4th Sunday in Lent Service 10:15 AM – Audio Service
- Wednesday, March 25** Lenten Midweek Audio Service 7:00 PM
Sermon: “*Praying for Healing*”
- Sunday, March 29** 5th Sunday in Lent Service 10:15 AM
- Wednesday, April 1** Lenten Lite Meal 6:00 PM
Lenten Service 7:00 PM

HOLY WEEK 2020

- Sunday, April 5-Palm Sunday Service 10:15 AM
Thursday, April 9- Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM
Friday, April, 10- Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 PM
Sunday, April 12 -Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM - HH
Sunday, April 12- Easter Sunday Service 10:15 AM

Conversation and Consolation



A certain individual once experienced a challenging period of health problems with multiple trips to the emergency room and repeated hospitalizations. This person, who had been spoiled by a lifetime of mostly good health, was laid low, both physically and emotionally by what seemed to be an endless progression of problems, each one worse than the one before. Yet, in the midst of this misery he found himself spiritually uplifted by the support of fellow Christians – members of the hospital staff, relatives, friends, and professional associates, but especially by the outpouring of love and concern of his local congregation.

Now this is an individual who has spent his entire life within the embrace of congregational life and who is thoroughly familiar with its practices for caring for those ailing or otherwise in need: corporate prayers during the worship services, the ‘prayer chain’ of members who individually pray for those who request it, special care ministries such as the group of women in his church who crochet/knit ‘prayer shawls’ for those needing comfort. Indeed, this individual had himself on countless occasions said “I’ll be praying for you” to others and then tried to be faithful in discharging that commitment. Yet, truth be told, this had probably been viewed more as an abstract ‘nice thing to do’ in order to show love and support for others than as the concrete blessing that he experienced when he found himself the recipient. It’s not that he doubted that such prayer was heard and answered, but it seemed to be a more-or-less private transaction between the one praying and the Lord. However, what he experienced during his ordeal was a very real sense of being enfolded by the love and care of Christ through the many voices raised on his behalf.

When discussing the unexpected richness of this blessing with his pastor, it was pointed out that what he had experienced seemed to be what Martin Luther was speaking of in the *Smalcald Articles* when he wrote about the “mutual conversation and consolation of brethren”. Now, even among Lutherans, this is a concept that is not widely discussed. In fact, it warrants only a single sentence within the *Smalcald Articles*, itself one of the less familiar documents of the Lutheran *Book of Concord*. Yet it expresses an important truth about our life in the ‘community of saints’ – that is, about being part of all those living and dead who are members of the ‘body of Christ.’

According to Luther, the Gospel is not simply the spoken/written message of salvation in Christ, but consists in all of the ways in which God's "superabundant grace" is poured out to the Church. These ways include not only God's Word and the Sacraments (baptism and communion), but also "the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren" whereby we in the Church build each other up in faith through our words and deeds of love and encouragement. The heart of this concept is rooted in the words of Jesus when He promised: *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."* (Matthew 18:20). That is, our community of believers is not just a collection of individuals who gather to worship and be fed, but like the cells of a living organism our interactions are intertwined with the life giving force which sustains and animates the whole body. By 'being there' for each other, we bring Christ! St. Paul was speaking of this form of 'preaching the Gospel' when he wrote to the church in Rome: *"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."* (Romans 1:11-12)

We thank God for all the ways in which the 'good news of salvation' comes to us – God is truly lavish in the generosity of His gifts! And among these gifts we really need to attach a very high value to the ways in which we mutually build each other up in faith as we witness it to each other through our interactions. Our participation in our congregational fellowship is, of course, filled with blessings for ourselves. But equally important, it is a powerful way in which we preach the Gospel to our brothers and sisters *"that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."*

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Visit us at www.teamfishhooks.com

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preaching/Presiding
Assisting Minister
Teleconference Host

Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman
Fred Schamber
MaryAnn Sinwell

Communion

When services resume, Holy Communion is by intinction. For those who wish to receive the communion wine or grape juice in individual cups for personal or health reasons, please note that the cups filled with grape juice are in the center of the tray and the cups filled with wine are on the outer edge of the tray.

All baptized Christians believing that the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are present, and forgiveness given in the sacrament, are welcome to join in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Announcements

Visitors, we welcome you to our worship today in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Are you looking for a church home? We invite you to join our worship and ministry. Please visit our website www.ourlutheranchurch.com and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/emmanuel.lutheranchurch.7583> or sign the Guest Register in the Narthex when you are here.

Easter Flower order are due TODAY! Please email your order form found on page 12 of this bulletin, to the church office elcna1c@gmail.com TODAY! You may also Fax it to us at (724)327-0306 or mail the form and your check to the church, P.O. Box 396, Export, PA 15632

Recordings of our audio services may be found on our website:
www.ourlutheranchurch.org