



LENT

PURIFY YOUR HEARTS.

JAMES 4:8



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

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020 - 10:15 AM - Audio Service

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

1. Five minutes before the service, call this number:
(712) 770-5505.
2. When asked for the access code, enter **234426**, then press the # key.
3. This worship bulletin has been emailed to members so all may follow along during the services. It is also available on our church website.
4. Recordings of previous services are also on our website.

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 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, as we have not spoken when we should have said something.**
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

P Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us.
C **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and follow you in faithfulness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

THE SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you,
C **And also with you.**

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

² **O Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But with you there is forgiveness,**

that you may be feared.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

⁶ **my soul waits for the Lord**

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸ **And he will redeem Israel**

from all his iniquities.

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 11:1-45

ESV p. 1141

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after

this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON "Traveling with Martha, Mary and Lazarus"

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: Lifting our hearts and voices in prayer, we turn to God to pray for the world, the Church, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P For all who lead the Church in this unprecedented time of world-wide pandemic, and for all the faithful in their Lenten pilgrimage. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayers.

P For the leaders of nations, and for peace throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayers.

P As Martha and Mary pleaded for healing, hear the cries of your people who call out in need and pain. Grant healing and comfort to those who are ill. We pray especially for Deb, Donna, Gene S., Jean W., Marcia, Philip, the families of Carolyn and Stanley and our shut-ins George, Ingeborg, Lois, Mo and Marian. We ask for blessings on those members we are holding in prayer this week: Charles, William, Paula, Jeremy, Mandy, Lanie, and Dale. Give them the joy of your saving help, now and always. Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayers.**

P Bring life to dry bones in our faith community. Breathe your lifegiving Spirit into the corners of our ministry that need renewal. Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayers.**

Intercessions

P We give thanks for the faithful departed and for the assurance that we will join with them in the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayers.**

P Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love, through 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

**Charles Holifield, William & Paula Boren, Jeremy, Mandy & Lanie Kress,
Dale Maholage**

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, Mo Lysher, Deb Pritts
Gene Seidling,**

FRIENDS OF EMMANUEL:

Marcia Briggs (Friend of the Woodwards), **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)



Sunday, March 29 5th Sunday in Lent Audio Service 10:15 AM

Wednesday, April 1 Lenten Audio Service 7:00 PM

HOLY WEEK 2020

Sunday, April 5-Palm Sunday Audio Service 10:15 AM

Thursday, April 9- Maundy Thursday Audio Service 6:15 PM

Friday, April 10- Good Friday Audio Service 6:15 PM

Sunday, April 12- Easter Sunday Audio Service 10:15 AM

To participate in any of our audio services, please follow these instructions:

1. Five minutes before the service, call this number:
(712) 770-5505.
2. When asked for the access code, enter **234426**,
then press the # key.
3. Worship bulletins will be emailed to members and made available on our
website and Facebook page.
4. Recordings of previous services are also on our website.

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technical difficulties, a notice will be placed on our website

www.ourlutheranchurch.org

THIS WEEK AT ELC

Sunday, March 29	10:15 AM Audio Worship Service*
Monday, March 30	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM AA – HH
Tuesday, March 31	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Office Hours
Wednesday, April 1	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Office Hours 10:30 AM – 6:00 PM Pastor Al's hrs. 11:00 AM eNews Deadline 7:00 PM Lenten Midweek Audio Service* 7:00 PM AA - HH
Thursday, April 2	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Church Office Hours
Friday, April 3	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Office Hours
Saturday, April 4	No activities

- Due to the cancellation of all in-person services at ELC through April 30, we will continue to provide audio services. Please call this number five minutes prior to the service from any phone: (712) 770-5505. When asked for an access code, enter 234426, then press the “#” key. Please mute your phone during the services to keep out any distracting background noises. In the event of technical difficulties, a notice will be posted on our website www.ourlutheranchurch.org



Elijah's Return

One of the striking aspects of the *Gospel of Mark* is that during the early part of Jesus' ministry, nobody seemed to know what to make of Him: not just the religious leaders who opposed Him (Mark 2:7), but also His neighbors (Mark 6:1-3), His disciples (Mark 4:21), and even His own family! (Mark 3:21).

So, given that people had never experienced anything like Jesus before, it's really not surprising that folks tried to identify Him with other notable figures of the past. It did make a certain creepy sense when King Herod, who had recently beheaded John the Baptist at the whim of his step-daughter, freaks out that this is John returned from the dead (Mark 6:16-29) – a guilty conscience will do that! But when Mark's Gospel says that people were wondering whether Jesus wasn't actually Elijah returned (Mark 6:15) doesn't that seem a bit of a stretch? After all, Elijah had been gone for about 900 years! And given all the other prophets, why him?

On the other hand, Elijah, usually considered the second-greatest prophet of the Old Testament (Moses generally being given the top seed), could have been available for an encore appearance since he was taken directly to heaven without dying (2 Kings 2:1-12). In fact, Elijah does make a live appearance when he and Moses stand together with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration (Mark 9:2-11). But the question the disciples then ask on the way down the mountain indicates confusion: "*Why do the teachers of the Law say that Elijah must come first?*" Why did everyone have this expectation of Elijah's return? And why did the sequence matter?

The clue can be found in God's pronouncement in the very last verses of the very last book of the Old Testament:

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or I will come and strike the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:5)

Though over 400 years had elapsed, those words (marking the close of Jewish prophetic writings) established the expectation that Elijah would be coming back as the opening act for the promised Messiah by whom the kingdom of Israel was expected to be restored. The confusion of the three disciples who were with Jesus on the mountain is then understandable: seeing Jesus transfigured in His full majesty and hearing Him identified as God's own Son had solidified their emerging recognition that He was the promised Messiah. But the chronology was confusing them: first came Jesus, then they saw Elijah. Wasn't it supposed to be the other way around?

Jesus connects the dots for them: It was John the Baptist who was actually the promised Elijah figure (Mark 9:12-13, Matthew 11:7-15). Jesus didn't mean that John was literally the reincarnation of Elijah, but rather that he came in the spirit of Elijah, as the angel had foretold when John's conception had been announced to his father, Zechariah (Luke 1:11-17).

Thus, as so often is the case, we find that we fully grasp the depth of a New Testament account only when we understand it in the light of the Old Testament – it is one continuous narrative of God's plan of salvation for His fallen creation, and we marvel at how all the threads converge in the person of Jesus the Christ (Messiah).

However, there is also a cautionary note in this example: an overly-literal reading of an Old Testament prophecy created an obstacle to recognizing its fulfillment. Those who were waiting for Elijah to physically return did not recognize in John the figure that would precede the Messiah, and thus Jesus too was misunderstood and rejected by many of those who were waiting for God to send their deliverer. God's word is true and His promises are always fulfilled. However the power and sweep of His vision for His Kingdom so vastly exceeds our puny perspective that we may miss the point of what we see Him doing in the world. To perceive God's hand, we watch and wait with confidence, faith – and humility.

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Visit us at www.teamfishhooks.com

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preaching/Presiding
Teleconference Host

Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman
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 audio 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 in person.

During this time of remote worship through April 30, we ask that you please remit your weekly offering by mailing it to:
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 396, Export, PA 15632.
Thank you.

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

We look forward to you joining us by phone again this Wednesday, April 1 at 7 PM for our final Lenten Midweek Service. The sermon will be "Praying the Lord's Prayer"