

# Emmanuel Lutheran Church

*2020 Midweek Lenten Services*

## PRAYER: ALL WAYS & ALWAYS



- Week 1: We pray together (prayer as Christian vocation)
- Week 2: ... for the church\*
- Week 3: ... for the world\*
- Week 4: ... for those in need\*
- Week 5: ... for each other (special “Service of Healing”)

*\* featuring a form of group prayer selected by participants*

Service Note: A worship leader will sing or say the non-bold words. The assembly will sing or say the bold words.

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

### PRELUDE

**Organist/Pianist, ELCA Deacon Joyce Finlay**

Please sit or kneel, enjoying the music or engaging in silent prayer.

### OPENING

Welcome.... Please stand as you are able.

### DIALOGUE

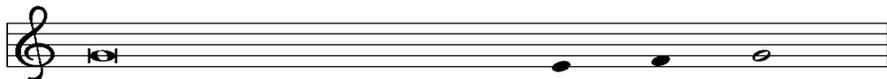
A large, lighted candle will be carried to its place as the dialogue is sung.



Behold, now is the accept - a - ble time; **now is the day of sal - vation.**



Turn us again, O God of our sal - vation,



**that the light of your face may shine on us.**



May your justice shine like the sun; **and may the poor be lift - ed up.**

### HYMN

**“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ”**

As we gather each Wednesday, we offer this prayer-song to God.

The words will be sung to the melody of “Abide with Me” (ELW #629), with the entire melody being played first.

- 1 **Eternal Spirit of the living Christ, I know not how to ask or what to say;  
I only know my need, as deep as life, and only you can teach me how to pray.**
- 2 **Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day; help me to see your purpose and your will,  
where I have failed, what I have done amiss; held in forgiving love, let me be still.**
- 3 **Come with the vision and the strength I need to serve my God and all humanity;  
fulfillment of my life in love outpoured: my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.**

*Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900-1996  
Text © 1974 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ: may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER MEETING**

**READING(S)**

*The assembly is seated. Each reading concludes with the words "Word of God, word of life" and the assembly responses...*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SPOKEN REFLECTION**

**Resident Pastor Lois Sorensen**

*There will be a brief reflection on the reading(s) in relation to corporate (group) prayer.*

**FEATURED PRACTICE**

**Resident Pastor Lois Sorensen**

*The assembly will receive instructions and engage in a particular group prayer practice.*

**SILENT REFLECTION**

Let us pause to quietly consider what we learned and experienced. How might we continue this practice beyond Lent?

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Please remain seated or kneel for this litany of prayers. *This litany may be sung or spoken.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Other petitions may be added here.*

Help, save, comfort, and defend | us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **CORPORATE VERSION OF LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

Let us offer this additional prayer for ourselves and each other...

**We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And finally, please stand as you are able, chanting the prayer that Jesus taught us...

*Each person in the assembly will use a single tone.*

***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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever.***

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

May our almighty and merciful God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless, preserve and keep us, this night and forevermore.

**Amen.**

#### **SENDING HYMN**

**verse #1 of “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (ELW #543)**

*The large, lighted candle will be carried out as this song is sung.*

#### **DISMISSAL (SILENT, NOT SPOKEN)**

*Please offer each other a sign of Christ's peace as you depart tonight. Tomorrow, lift up and serve the poor in God's name.*

**Prayer: All Ways & Always**  
*... an exploration of various ways we can pray together*

Reading for Week #4

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh  
— my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.

<sup>4</sup> One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>6</sup> Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> ‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, do I seek.

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup> If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord,  
and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

<sup>12</sup> Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!

- Psalm 27:1-2,4,6-14 (NRSV)

**Prayer: All Ways & Always**  
*... an exploration of various ways we can pray together*

This week, we are focusing on an ancient spiritual practice known as *Lectio Divina* (Latin for “Divine Reading”), which treats a piece of scripture not as text to be studied on a scholarly basis, but as Living Word to be encountered. As a corporate (group) practice, it is considered to be a form of prayer in which the Holy Spirit “reads” the group as its members listen to what each encountered while listening to the Word. The same reading with the same group can result in very different “reads” on different days.

*Lectio Divina* typically involves four parts: *Lectio* (slow, thoughtful reading; usually two or three times, preferably in different voices), *Meditatio* (silently dwelling on which images, words, and/or phrases came to mind during the reading), *Oratio* (prayerful presence before God), and *Contemplatio* (further attentiveness – written, creative, or other additional processing of the encounter). In this particular corporate form, the additional processing will take the form of two levels of group discussion: first between pairs of people (listening to which images, words, and/or phrases caught the other person’s attention) and then as each pair reports-out to the group as a whole (so that the group can identify and ponder themes or any messages that emerge).

## LIVESTREAM INSTRUCTIONS:

- Will you be watching the service with someone (whether in the same room as you, or available to you by phone or text)? If so, be prepared to use about 5 minutes to listen (as the other person talks or texts) to what catches their attention each time the Bible passage is read aloud.
- Will you be watching by yourself? Be prepared to listen-in and take notes as two people in the Sanctuary engage each other in a short listening session.
- Either way, please e-mail any thoughts to [lois@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:lois@naplesemmanuel.org) by Thursday morning, so that she can use your input to fine-tune a list of the themes or messages that the group encountered.