



Wandering Heart

"Jesus sought me"

Simon answered,
"Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.
But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
(Luke 5:5)

First Sunday in Lent

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr

February 18, 2024 9:15am

www.immanuelfamily.com

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath. Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

C: for Christ is here. God never stops seeking us.

L: We have been found.

C: Let us find God in return.

L: Let us worship the God of deep waters.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us. Let us pray:

C: Loving God, You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

L: Church family, hear and believe this good news: You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that.

ALL: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: **"Come Thou Font of Every Blessing"**

#807

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 THE DAY

Creator God, You hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter

around tables. You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25:1-10 [read responsively]

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according
to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "What Wondrous Love is This"

Bell Choir

GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11

*Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Rod

HYMN OF THE DAY: "**Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**"

#517 ELW

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: I believe in a God of abundance—

C: a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.

L: I believe in a God who comforts—

C: a God who says, "Do not be afraid;" a God who joins me in life's deep waters.

L: I believe in a God who invites—

C: a God who says, "Follow me," and, "You will be fishers of people."

L: I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *L: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.*

OFFERTORY: "As the Grains of Wheat" #465

ALL: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

COMMUNION: **"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"** #325
 "Children of the Heavenly Father" #781

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Praise to You, O God of Mercy" #208

SENDING HYMN: "We Are Marching in the Light" #866

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Today's worship is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast given in memory of Don & Edell Westerberg from Steve & Nancy Westerberg.