

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Mid Week Lenten Worship – April 9, 2025 – Week 5

Theme: **God delights in our goodness and judges sin.**

L: God announces the goodness of all of creation, from the smallest fish to the largest elephant, to you and me. God celebrates the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given each of us to serve our neighbor and the world in need. Yet there is evil in the world, which God condemns and works against. Sometimes we are a part of that evil, caught in webs beyond individual choices of right and wrong. Sometimes we are recipients of that evil, through actions of others or networks in the world. God judges sin, but always in service of love for all of God's (good) creatures.

**ALL: Confession: Jesus, we confess that we, all too willingly, participate in systems of injustice and evil. We have sinned against you and our neighbors in thought word and deed. We doubt your provision, we fear our neighbors, we see only scarcity, so we hold on tight when we should joyfully share our time, talents and resources. Help us to grow in trust of your faithfulness, and help us to respond in kind to a world in need. Amen**

L: Siblings in Christ, Jesus suffered the injustice of evil and the violence associated with that evil. He reminds us, by his goodness, that we were created for good works of love, compassion, blessing, and God's justice. In Jesus' willingness to suffer humiliation and death, your sins are forgiven and you are raised up with Christ to live, trusting God and serving God's reign, for be upbuilding of and renewal of all creation. **Amen**

**Song: Come Ye Sinners**

**Prayer of the Day:** Lord Jesus, the day of reckoning is coming when all will be judged, and sin and evil will be, once and for all, put under your feet. Help us not to fear that day, but to surrender to it. Help us to trust you with our whole lives. Give us wisdom to trust that your mercy and grace is enough to lead us from death to life. **Amen**

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:1-2:2

**Message**

Pastor Rod Hopp (live at Bethany)

**Song: Your Grace is Enough**

**Prayers:**

Lord Jesus, fill us with your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts, and draw us closer to your love and grace, setting us free to serve others in need. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, rise within us. Let your Spirit shine out in every broken place where we walk, and bring healing wherever your creation and your beloved creatures live in brokenness. We pray for (those in need can be named here). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, you invite us deeper into your word, your world, and into your Lenten journey to the cross. Let us journey into a time of inward transformation that leads each of us and your church to an outward focus, seeking to bless the world with your love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of accompaniment, help us to walk a Lenten journey focused on quiet freedom, abundant generosity, and life-changing encounters with you and our neighbors. Give us hearts hungry for community, diversity, unity, and a newly discovered shared humanity. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, you have known us from the beginning of time, you have known us in the depths of our dreams and in the darkness of our shame. Awaken us to our blessedness, and our belovedness that we may look upon others as you look upon us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Song: Press On**

**Sending Blessing**