

Parish Three Lutheran Churches
9:00 A.M. St. John's

*For to all those
who have, more
will be given,
and they will
have an
abundance.*

Matthew 25:29, NRSV



November 19, 2023
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor John Heille
Organist: Nancy Beenken

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: O LORD, our Lord,

C: how majestic is your name in all the earth!

P: You have set your glory above the heavens.

**C: From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise. (Psalm 8:1-2a)**

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able

GATHERING HYMN

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

ELW #689

SERVICE OF THE WORD DIALOGUE

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You set free those who are bound.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You provide for our every need.

Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.

We rejoice and bless your name forever.

You bless your people with peace.

We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(in unison)*

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

GOD'S WORD SHARED

FIRST READING **Judges 4:1-7**

Deborah was a prophet and judge who, with her general, Barak, led a victorious holy war against a stronger Canaanite force from the north.

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. ²So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned

Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

Leader: “The Word of the Lord”

All: “Thanks be to God”

PSALM Psalm 123

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.**

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁴**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ’s return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we

may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Leader: “The Word of the Lord”

All: “Thanks be to God”

THANK OFFERING

Leader: In the name of the Triune God

**All: Let us remember the discipleship of courageous women of faith.
Amen.**

Leader: The Lord delights in all those who come to the house of the Lord to praise and glorify God’s holy name.

All: Happy are those whose hearts are filled with joy in serving the Lord!

Leader: The Lord gives wisdom to those with humble and simple hearts.
How wonderful it is to celebrate the discipleship of our faithful women.

All: Happy are those whose hearts are filled with joy in serving the Lord.

Leader: Listen, children of God. How mighty are the deeds of the Lord,
which transform the hearts of the faithful.

**All: Happy are those whose hearts are filled with joy in serving the Lord!
O God, pour out your wisdom once again upon the young and old, the
faithful and courageous women of this congregation. Bless them so
that their spirits are strengthened and renewed through the merits of
your beloved son, Jesus Christ, we beseech you for your guidance.
Amen.**

HYMN

“Lord of Light”

ELW #688

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

When God is Ready.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW #685

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt other people.
We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

You are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

ELW #686

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 SENDING

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

ELW #890

POSTLUDE

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PRAYERS

We offer prayers of healing and comfort for those in our church families and communities who are ill, suffering, or coping with a loss. Please include in your prayers: Nick Heille (Pastor John’s Dad), Dixie Buns, Russ Bruns, Avon Rurup, all active military, our folks in nursing homes, and our Bishops Eaton and Halaas.

THIS WEEK AT PARISH THREE

11/19/2023	6:00 PM	Parents Meeting @ Immanuel
11/20/2023	1:00 PM	December Newsletter Deadline
11/20/2023	6:30 PM	Bible Study @ Good Hope
11/22/2023	3:00 PM	Worship @ Summit House (Britt)
11/22/2023	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Immanuel
11/26/2023	9:00 AM	Worship @ Immanuel w/Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Parish 3 is hiring** for the position of secretary treasurer. If you or someone you know is interested, please e-mail parishthre@wctatel.net

****TONIGHT Meeting for all Immanuel parents** with kids 5th grade and under at Immanuel

****NEW Parish 3 Facebook Page** – follow “Parish 3 – St. John’s & Immanuel” for event announcements, worship schedule and weather announcements.

****St. John’s WELCA** are asked to provide 3 dozen Christmas cookies for the annual cookie sale & breakfast on Saturday, December 2nd. They can be dropped off at the Woden Community Center the day before the event or by 7:00a.m. the day of the cookie sale. Reminder to the group chairpersons to please notify the ladies in your group. (Doris & Kim)

****Immanuel Church Decorating for Christmas** will be December 3rd following the church service at St. John’s.

****St. John’s Men** – you should have received a letter in the mail about the Pancake Breakfast on December 9th. Please contact John Kurtzleben, Pat Gibbs, or Gary Hayungs ASAP about signing up for a shift. We want this to be a successful fundraiser, and your help is needed and appreciated 😊

****Immanuel will host a brunch** immediately after church on Sunday, December 10th as a fundraiser for our Quasquicentennial celebration. There will be freewill donation.

****The Angel Tree** is up at St. John’s! If you are able to help, you can pick up an angel, purchase your gift, and return it to the church by Dec. 6th. Please be sure to leave the bottom stub of the angel in the blue box. There is also a sign up for food donations on the bell tower.

****Thank You!** Many thanks for your donations to our God’s Work Our Hands – Undie Sunday project collected through the month of September. Seed money through a Thrivent Action team was received that aided in Parish Three making a generous contribution of underwear and socks to the men’s and women’s shelters that serve our local area.

****St. John's Offering Envelopes for 2024** are ready to pick up. If you want a box of envelopes and don't see your name on one, let Becky Crone know. If you don't want envelopes for 2025, let Becky Crone know.

****An online scrapbook has been started** for Immanuel's 125th Anniversary. Anyone can access it and view or download images at <https://imemories.us/3ZB8mle>. The link will be posted on www.parish3.com. Thank you to Shirley Boyken for making the digital scrapbook.

****Immanuel Members:** A tentative date of July 14, 2024 has been set for the celebration of Immanuel's 125th anniversary. We're looking for individuals to help plan that celebration. If interested, talk with Pastor John or any council member.

