

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAY CREEK  
24686 OLD CHURCH ROAD, RED WING, MN 55066  
[www.immanuel-lcms.org](http://www.immanuel-lcms.org)**

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**The Third Sunday After the Epiphany      January 21, 2018**

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**VISITORS – WE WELCOME YOU** to this house of prayer this morning. May you feel at home among friends as we worship together. We invite you to sign your name in the guest book in the back of the church and hope you will return again soon.

This morning we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar, a feast of forgiveness in which we partake of the true body and blood of Christ along with the visible elements of bread and wine. The Bible gives specific instructions about the Lord's Supper. As it can be received to one's blessing or to one's harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), the Lord's Table must be approached with a sincere faith and a Biblical understanding. That's why all who are new to the Lutheran faith are instructed about this sacred meal before attending the Lord's Supper. Moreover, this Sacrament is also a testimony of our oneness in what we believe (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we welcome to the Holy Supper all members of Immanuel who have been confirmed and those confirmed members of sister congregations with whom we are in fellowship through unity in teaching (LCMS and TAALC). All guests who wish to receive the Sacrament are asked to speak with Pastor Sorenson before the service. The faith that we believe and confess is a beautiful gift of God. If you are new to Immanuel, we warmly welcome and encourage you to learn about this faith.

Prelude  
Ringing of the Bell  
Welcome  
Opening Hymn: #850, "God of Grace and God of Glory"

Invocation  
P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**

Litany of Life (Roe v. Wade Anniversary, January 22, 1973)

P: Lord, have mercy.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: Lord, have mercy.

P: God the Father in heaven.

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world.

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: God the Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: O Most Holy Trinity,

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: On behalf of unborn children everywhere...On behalf of abused or neglected infants and children...On behalf of children who have been made to feel unloved or unwanted...On behalf of children who are trapped in poverty...On behalf of children whose lives are scarred by violence...On behalf of children who suffer from poor health or disease...On behalf of children who lack adequate food, shelter, clothing, or education.

**C: We turn to You, O Lord.**

P: On behalf of mothers and fathers who are struggling to care for their children...On behalf of parents who have no one to help them...On behalf of parents who have lost a child to violence....On behalf of parents who feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities...On behalf of parents who grieve over their children's sufferings.

**C: We turn to You, O Lord.**

P: On behalf of unwed mothers trying to do the right thing...On behalf of women who feel pressured into having an abortion...On behalf of fathers who are given no say in whether their unborn children live or die...On behalf of women who now regret having had an abortion...On behalf of men who now regret having arranged an abortion for their wives, girlfriends, or daughters.

**C: We turn to You, O Lord.**

P: On behalf of medical personnel who now regret their involvement in any form of abortion...On behalf of all survivors of abortion...On behalf of politicians who have opposed abortion at the risk of their own political careers...On behalf of those leaders in our society who are trying to respect the gift of life...On behalf of our president, that he may lead our nation with wisdom and integrity...On behalf of all Americans who seek to cherish and defend Your gift of life.

**C: We turn to You, O Lord.**

P: For the times we have not appreciated Your gift of life...For our failures to respect and acknowledge the dignity of others...For the ways we have not done our part to defend human life...For the times we have been lazy or complacent in opposing euthanasia and abortion...For failing to take seriously our responsibilities as citizens.

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: For the ways we have relied only on ourselves, and not on Your grace. For the times we have been silent instead of speaking out in defense of life...For failing to love our enemies as much as we should...For the ways we have not shown enough compassion for all the victims of abortion.

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: From efforts to devalue human life and dignity...From our failures to extend legal protection to the unborn.

**C: Deliver us, O Lord.**

P: From population planners who seek to control others in their greed or lust for power...From politicians who claim to be personally opposed to abortion but who do nothing to restrict it...From those who argue for choice but who take future choices away from unborn children...From those who claim to favor equal rights but who would deny these rights to the unborn.

**C: Deliver us, O Lord.**

P: From religious leaders who excuse or defend attacks upon Your gift of life...From slanted media coverage that goes to any length to hide or distort the truth...From legislators and judges who place their rulings and opinions above common sense...From pressure to be politically correct even if it means denying Your truth...From a spirit of indifference and apathy that afflicts so many of our fellow citizens.

**C: Deliver us, O Lord.**

P: From a blasphemous misuse of religion which tries to justify abortion...From an unwillingness on the part of so many Christians to be active in defending all human life...From a spirit of despair which might make us forget the coming of Your Kingdom.

**C: Deliver us, O Lord.**

P: For the millions of Americans who are willing to march, demonstrate, and pray on behalf of the unborn...For our brothers and sisters willing to gather peacefully and pray and give witness

outside abortion clinics...For dedicated volunteers serving in pro-life offices and crisis pregnancy centers, and in community agencies, church committees, and national organizations.

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: For doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel who remain true to their consciences by serving human life rather than assaulting it...For elected leaders, politicians, judges, and other officials who have the courage and integrity to work for the defense of life...For media consultants, authors, lawyers, businesspeople, and other professionals who donate their time and expertise to the pro-life cause.

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: For Christian leaders willing to speak out and provide moral guidance to their people...For reporters and members of the media who try to report the news honestly and fairly...For all who support the pro-life movement with their money, time, or prayers...For those citizens of our country who are willing to hear the truth and act upon it.

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: For mothers and fathers who cherish the gift of their children...For pediatricians, principals, teachers, school bus drivers, day care personnel, religious education catechists and Sunday school teachers, youth ministers, guidance counselors, social workers, and all who work with the young.

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: For families who love, nourish, and respect one another...For the gifts of wonder and love each new child brings into the world...For the gifts of wisdom, experience, and perspective each older person offers to our society...For the talents, abilities, and potential present in each person on earth.

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: For giving us the opportunity and duty to shape and influence the world around us...For every sunrise and every sunset; for every new day and every peaceful night; for the beauty of nature and the joy of life...For the present moment and for the passing of years.

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: For our faith in You and our unity in Christ...For calling us to work in the grace and power of Your Spirit...And for providing us the gift of eternal life in Your Kingdom.

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Help us to speak for the defenseless. And may Your Name be praised forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

Silent Prayer

*(A verse of "Abide with Me" is played softly in the background)*

Old Testament Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Gospel is read.)*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

The Nicene Creed ..... back cover of the hymnal

Hymn of the Day: #683, "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

Sermon: "Reality Check"

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day, spoken by Pastor

Confession and Announcement of Grace

P: As we prepare to come to the Lord's Table, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for self-examination)*

P: Holy and gracious God,

**C: I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed - but some is known only to You. In the Name of Jesus Christ I ask for forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in Your peace.**

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest in His peace and we rise up in newness of life to serve Him.

**C: Amen.**

Responsive Reading of Psalm 113, selected verses worship insert

The Lord's Prayer ..... back cover of the hymnal

Words of Institution

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

Distribution

#624, "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

#629, "What Is This Bread"

#642, "O Living Bread from Heaven"

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn: #632

"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee" with "Amen"

Chimes/Silent Prayer

Announcement

Postlude