

- WELCOME!** ✧ Welcome! We are glad you have joined us for worship. We are a Reconciling In Christ congregation and welcome people of every race, ethnic background, social status, physical limitation, sexual orientation and gender identity. Together in our diversity, we seek to embrace the love God offers us in Jesus Christ.
- HOLY COMMUNION** ✧ You are invited to receive God's gifts of forgiveness and new life in Christ at God's table of Holy Communion. If you are joining from home, please set your table with bread or crackers and wine or grape juice. We are prepared and worthy to receive Holy Communion when we come with an open heart, trusting that God's love is for us.
- RECORDING** ✧ First Immanuel is committed to connect with people who are unable to be with us in person for worship. Please note that we are connected by Zoom and through YouTube. And as such, video recording takes place throughout the service.
- CHILDREN** ✧ We encourage children to participate with their families in worship. It is our custom to invite children to come forward for a special message from the Pastors just before the sermon. Parents are welcome to join them. A play area with a nursing area and changing table is downstairs. Please ask an usher.
- FLOWERS** ✧ Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by Martha Driessnack.
- COFFEE** ✧ Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall following worship, hosted by Martha Driessnack.
- MASKS** ✧ Masks are an effective way to protect us from infection. We are currently mask optional. We encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer, and that you stay current on your vaccinations.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

INTERIM PASTORS	Christine Core & Scott Dunfee
ASSISTING MINISTERS	James Bash
LECTOR	Kevin Kindschuh
ACOLYTE	Skipper Bessette
USHERS	Kent Fredrickson & Jeannette O'Brien
COMMUNION PREPARATION	Lauren Kim
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Ralph Nelson
ORGANIST	Karl Jurisons
CAMERA/SOUND TECH	Richard Wong

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD HOLY COMMUNION

2 March 2025

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Lobe den Herren”

J.G. Walther, comp.

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTES

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather in the name of the Creator, the Christ ✠, and the Holy Spirit—the God who gives us new life in Baptism.

People: Blessed be God, the source of all life!

Water is poured into the font...

Pastor: In the waters of the Jordan River, Jesus was baptized by John and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the ministry God had prepared for him. Through baptism you have been received into God’s household and anointed for ministry. God has entrusted you with sharing the good news of grace upon grace in Jesus Christ.

People: Baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ, we have left the old behind. We welcome the new future that God is making possible in partnership with all creation. And we joyfully worship God!

* Please stand as you are able.

* **OPENING HYMN**

“Thy Strong Word”

ELW 511 (*red book*)

1. Thy strong word
 did cleave the darkness;
 at thy speaking it was done.
 For created light we thank thee,
 while thine ordered seasons run.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise to thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
4. From the cross thy wisdom shining
 breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;
 from the cross forever beameth
 all thy bright redeeming light.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise to thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
5. Give us lips to sing thy glory,
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
 throats that shout
 the hope that fills us,
 mouths to speak thy holy name.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 May the light which thou dost send
 fill our songs with alleluias,
 alleluias without end!
6. God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

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* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

People: And also with you.

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* **THE KYRIE**

SING

Assistant: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain:



Assistant: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
(Refrain)

Assistant: For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **(Refrain)**

Assistant: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

People:



* HYMN OF PRAISE

Spirited (refrain)

Our God of love will host the cel - e - bra - tion, And has called us to

share the feast, Our God of love will host the cel - e - bra - tion, And has called us to

(verses)

share the feast. 1. Ev - 'ry na - tion, all peo - ple are in - vit - ed, From
2. God calls us to part - ti - ci - pate com - plete - ly, And

north and south, from west and east, God pro - vides the
meets us with God's grac - ious care, We're to come, in
(repeat refrain)

sup - per set be - fore us, and sup - plies ev - ry - thing we'll need:
joy - ful ce - le - bra - tion, to this feast we are called to share:

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* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Holy God, mighty and immortal, gentle and giving your very self for us, you are beyond knowing, yet have made known your glory and grace in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of Christ, who renewed our humanity so that we may share your divinity, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

WORD

ANTHEM "O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair" **Ralph Nelson, arr.**

THE FIRST LESSON **Exodus 34:29-35**

Moses' face shown with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.

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Lector: Word of God, word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON **2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2**

In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into God's likeness.

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Lector: Word of God, word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL PROCESSION**

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** **SING**

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
 - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Your Word is a lamp, a lamp un - to my
 feet, Your Word is a light, a light up - on my path: Al - le - lu -
 - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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* **THE GOSPEL**

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, O God.

The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.

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Lector: Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Christine Core

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** **"How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"** **ELW 315 (red book)**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.</p> <p>2. How good, Lord, to be here,
your beauty to behold
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.</p> <p>3. Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified
and our redemption see.</p> | <p>4. Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home.</p> <p>5. How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.</p> |
|--|--|

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* **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Assistant: Led by the light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen

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HOLY COMMUNION

* **SHARING THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

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GATHERING OF GIFTS "Fanfare on Old Hundredth" Douglas Wagner, arr.

* **SETTING THE TABLE**

Farms and fields and gar - dens, Filled with gold - en grain,
Orch - ards, vine - yards yield - ing Fruits of your de - sign.
In the bread You've gi - ven, We live in Your reign. We re -
Signs of your a - bun - dance, In this bread and wine.
turn to You, God, gifts you have gi - ven, Know - ing that you love us,
Know - ing we're for - giv - en, Know - ing we're for - giv - en.

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Assistant: Let us pray. Merciful God,

People: **receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal, unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, Heav'n and earth are
 full of your glo-ry, Ho-san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed is the
 one, who comes in the name of the
 Lord, Ho-san-na in the high-est!

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Pastor: It is indeed right and centers us...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People:

The Lord be with you and al-so with you;
 Lift up your hearts, we lift them to the Lord, Let us give thanks to the Lord
 our God, It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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* THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah, his family, and all creatures. Through the sea you led your people Israel out of slavery and into freedom.

People: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of New Life in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread...
...for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

People: As we eat this bread and drink this cup, shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

Pastor: By the power of your Spirit, help us to pray:

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

READ

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

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

All are welcome at Christ's table, where the risen Christ is present to strengthen us to share in God's loving purposes for the world. The ushers will direct you to the altar rail. The glasses in the center of the communion tray contain grape juice for those who wish it. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please ask the pastor. To receive a pastoral blessing instead of the bread and wine, simply fold your hands.

LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world have". It ends with a first ending bracket labeled "1. 2". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "mercy on us. world, grant us peace." It begins with a repeat sign and a third ending bracket labeled "3.".

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 1

1. I'm a-goin'-a eat
at the welcome table,
I'm a-goin'-a eat
at the welcome table,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a eat
at the welcome table,
I'm a-goin'-a eat
at the welcome table,
some of these days.
2. I'm a-goin'-a feast
on milk and honey,
I'm a-goin'-a feast
on milk and honey,
some of these days.

“Welcome Table”**ACS 969** (*blue book*)

- I'm a-goin'-a feast
on milk and honey,
I'm a-goin'-a feast
on milk and honey,
some of these days.
3. I'm a-goin'-a wade
'cross Jordan's river,
I'm a-goin'-a wade
'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade
'cross Jordan's river,
I'm a-goin'-a wade
'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 2

1. Build a longer table,
not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger,
making room for all.
Feasting together,
stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces;
false divisions end.
2. Build a safer refuge,
not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter,
mercy will not fail.
For any place where
justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall,
freeing all inside.

“Build a Longer Table”**ACS 1062** (*blue book*)

3. Build a broader doorway,
not a longer fence.
Love protects all people,
sparing no expense.
When we embrace
compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences:
all are welcome here.
4. When we lived as exiles,
refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway
to the reign of God.
So must our tables
welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded;
all must find a home.

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Now the silence
 Now the peace
 Now the empty hands uplifted
 Now the kneeling
 Now the plea
 Now the Father’s arms in welcome
 Now the hearing
 Now the pow’r
 Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
 Now the body

Now the blood
 Now the joyful celebration
 Now the wedding
 Now the songs
 Now the heart forgiven leaping
 Now the Spirit’s visitation
 Now the Son’s epiphany
 Now the Father’s blessing
 Now Now Now

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* **BLESSING**

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of Christ’s body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

People: Amen

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* **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assistant: Let us pray.

People: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

Amen

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SENDING

* **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May Jesus Christ, the light of the world, fill your hearts and illumine your path. Almighty and All-tender God, Creator, ✠ Christ, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen

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CLOSING HYMN & FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

Assistant: Shout with joy, people of God!

People: Alleluia! Christ is Lord!

Assistant: Sing with gladness, people of God!

People: Alleluia! In Christ we have seen the glory of God!

CLOSING HYMN

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW 318 (*red book*)

1. Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.

2. Alleluia you are sounding,
true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother,
bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon’s sad waters
mourning exiles still are we.

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Assistant: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

People: A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

Assistant: Prepare us, O God, for our Lenten journey, to make spiritual preparation for celebrating the resurrection of our Lord.

People: Help us listen to our lives. Help us see our need for spiritual growth and renewal.

Assistant: For forty days we set aside the word that proclaims our joy.

People: We attend, instead, to a time of seeking clarity, of taking stock of our lives, of turning our hearts toward God.

Assistant: We will wait until the great, glad day of Easter to sing with joy. Until then, farewell, Alleluia!

People: Farewell, Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW 318 (*red book*)

3. Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming
when our tears for sin shall flow.

4. In our hymns we pray with longing:
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter
with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing
alleluia joyfully.

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* SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace. You are light for the world.

People: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Toccata”

Gaston Béliet, comp.

FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“A Welcoming Community Centered in Christ’s Love,
Joyfully Reaching Out Together”*

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MINISTRY TEAM

Every Member of First Immanuel

Interim Pastors: Christine Core & Scott Dunfee

Congregation President: Chris Weiss

Office Manager: Debbie Rehn

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chris Weiss, President

Andrew Drexler, Vice President

Jeannette O’Brien, Secretary

James Bash

Amy Harrison

Kevin Kindschuh

Tyrell Servo

Jane Sproul

Chia Stockwell

Jim Wick

Maddie Wiens

Leslie Wong

Kent Fredrickson, Treasurer

TRANSITION TEAM

Co-Chairs: Kevin Kindschuh & Leslie Wong

(Kevin@Kindschuh.org, leslieswong@yahoo.com)

Members: Marilyn Ball, Gary Nelson, Bill Stack, Jennifer Trom & Anna Wilde

Advisors: Pastor Christine Core & Pastor Scott Dunfee

Note: For live links, please see our weekly e-news or website

“Coming Home to Christ in Baptism”—a subversive Lent!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

There will be two opportunities for the Imposition of Ashes at FILC:

12 Noon: Brief service with imposition of ashes, followed by simple lunch of soup & bread

7-7:15 PM: Imposition of ashes available in the sanctuary



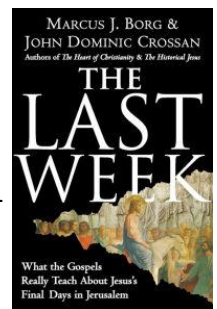
Lent was historically a time of preparation for Baptism. Early Christians only baptized once a year since it was a dangerous thing to do! The Roman Empire had outlawed the Christian faith and persecuted those who preached it. One could be arrested and executed for being baptized! Since it was such a subversive thing to do and such a great risk, the one time chosen for Baptism was Easter—when Jesus passed from

death into life—for “we are baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ” (Romans 6). Thus, Lent was the time candidates were prepared for Baptism and the whole Christian community renewed their Baptismal identity. It was a time to “Come Home to Christ.”

FILC is in a time of transition, identifying the characteristics that make this church a beloved spiritual “home” in preparation for calling a new Pastor. The politics and social realities of the times in which we live are full of anxiety, fear, anger and hopelessness for many. It’s time to “come home to Christ,” to be at least a little subversive and counter-cultural! It's time to “come home to Christ in our Baptism”—find our roots and get grounded and anchored in that which gives life and peace, joy and hope. Will you make the observance of Lent a priority at this crucial time? Come receive the sign of the cross made with ashes, in remembrance of your Baptism into the Crucified and Risen One. “Nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus!” (Romans 8).

New Adult Forum Study starts today 9:30 AM, Sodergren Library and online

Join us for our new study! We've selected *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The authors use the gospel of Mark to present a day-by-day account of the last week of Jesus’s life from Palm Sunday through Easter. If you would like to join us, please contact Jeannette O’Brien (jaobrien2156@comcast.net) so we can order a book for you. Join us in Sodergren Library at 9:30 AM, or join on Zoom (ID: 993 6441 5673, Passcode: 069629).



FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Psalm 99**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2**

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1}Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides;

we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

[³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴²While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a}And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]

Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ITEM013706 ELCA-R