



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR JOURNEY IN JESUS - LIFTING US UP!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 may be the most well-known verse in the entire Bible, even committed to memory by many of us. What a welcome reprieve to hear this familiar promise today. At International Lutheran Church, we have been reflecting on our Savior's passion as we read through the Gospel of John. With the theme, "Our Journey in Jesus," we see our Christian walk as a lifetime of discipleship.

Lent is a forty-day journey for us to contemplate our Savior's passion - His grace in giving Himself for us. If you do the math though and look at the calendar, there are actually 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. This is because the Sundays don't count! These six Sundays are considered "in" Lent, but not "of" Lent. Thus, each Sunday is like a little oasis. Each Lord's Day is a little rest in the dry and dusty march of our wilderness wandering.

Today, we get the coolest of cool drinks and a welcome place to refresh our souls and give us strength for the journey ahead. Chapter 3 in John's gospel is a powerful exchange as Nicodemus, a very respected teacher of Israel, comes to Jesus. Even though he comes under the concealment of the night, Jesus lifts Nicodemus' gaze, and ours, to consider the miracle of how God saves. Jesus reminds Nicodemus of the grumbling and fearful days in the wilderness wanderings of God's people

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
(to be available online)

7:30 p.m. AA and Al Anon

THIS WEEK

3/11 Lenten Service
(to be available online)

in the past. He points to the reality of our sin and the certain death that it brings for all.

Yet just as Moses was commanded by God to lift up the bronze snake, the image of their judgement, so Jesus Himself would be "lifted up" to suffer the complete judgement of God's wrath in our place on the cross. As our eyes are drawn to Him in faith, God removes our guilt and shame and we are born anew of His Spirit. In the water of Holy Baptism, we are connected to the One who connected Himself to us. His life eternal becomes our Eternal Life. We do not live in fear any longer but have the hope of the promise and the promise of the hope yet to be revealed in and through us.

While we face the continual challenges of life and the real struggle with the venomous fear of an uncontrollable virus, God's response to our need in sending His One and Only Son is good news for us and the whole World! God is with you in Jesus! As we journey in Jesus to His Cross and Passion during this Lenten season, we pray that His love for you would lift you up and strengthen you as you give aid to your neighbor.

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN SEASON

Lent began last week on Wednesday. Devotional booklets can be downloaded through The Messenger (online version) as well as the website.

ONLINE GIVING

Whether traveling or just not able to come to church, offering your tithes and gifts is easily accomplished through online giving. This method of giving will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

Thank you for your role in keeping ILC's ministry ongoing.

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE CHANGE

With growing concerns of the recent local spreading of the coronavirus COVID-19, all weekday Bible studies (Wednesday evening and Friday morning) have been canceled or made available online.

Please watch for additional notices through ILC email, website and Facebook page.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Since our services have temporarily migrated to a virtual format, we will not be listing worship assistants here. However, if you are interested in serving as a worship volunteer for when we resume our normal schedule, please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

READINGS

Mar 8: 2nd Sunday in Lent

OT	Genesis 12:1-9
NT	Romans 4:1-8;13-17
Gospel	John 3:1-17

Mar 15: 3rd Sunday in Lent

OT	Exodus 17:1-7
NT	Romans 5:1-8
Gospel	John 4:5-26