Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Mark Squire

Lent Mid-week Worship

March 11, 2026

6:30 PM

Lent Mid-week Worship **March 11, 2026**

Responsive Prayer **page 285**

Hymn: **"Praise and Thanksgiving"** **# 789**

Invocation (stand)

Opening Versicles **page 285**

Readings from Holy Scripture **Response: "Thanks be to God."**

Old Testament Reading **1 Kings 21:1-16**

Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?" And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" And Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. And she wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death." And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead."

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead."

And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Epistle Reading **Ephesians 4:17-28**

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! - assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Holy Gospel (Stand) **Matthew 6:19-24**

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Hymn **"All Depends on Our Possessing"** **# 732**

Sermon **"The Seventh Commandment - Possessions"** Elders
Matthew 6:19-24
Hymn "God the Lord Gave His Command" (vv. 1, 7, 9, 10) (insert)
(sung *after* the Sermon)

Offering

Kyrie page 285

The Lord's Prayer page 285

Apostles' Creed page 286

Versicles page 286

Collects (Evening)

Benedicamus and Blessing page 287

Closing Hymn **"Lord of All Good"** **# 786**

Bulletin cover explanation:

Matthew 6:24, *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and…"*

Of course you know that Jesus actually says that we cannot serve both God and money. However, He starts verse 24 with the more general statement that no human being can serve "two masters." I think the reasons that He narrows it down to "God and Money" (or "mammon" / possessions) is because 1) He's been talking about heavenly vs/ earthly rewards since 5:46, and 2) because Money is one of the most common masters that humans tend to serve rather than God. However—after we've considered and sat under the weight of what it means to serve Money rather than God—don't think it would be unfaithful to Jesus' teaching here to take out "money" and add in something else; anything else, really, because no matter what we put in that blank, Jesus' teaching here will hold true…

I put "Fear" in that blank… Notice that Fear is pointing its servant away from Christ (and, therefore, away from truth. For the Christian, Fear's threats must ultimately be lies), and that its hand is on his heart—freezing joy and vision and hope and fruitfulness. See also that Fear's head is pierced by the cross. WHATEVER Fear might threaten the Christian, its final victory cannot happen. Why? Because Christ bore the fullness of every fearful thing in Himself on the cross and overcame them by His resurrection. Fear's threats may—in part—come to pass…. but the promises it makes of endless bleakness, of final hopelessness, of wasted and ruined lives that end in sorrow and shame… for the Christian who joins Christ in death and resurrection, these promises will never come true. Notice that the risen Jesus holds his wounded hand open for the Christian to see. All comfort in the face of Fear is bound up in that hand. The wound in that hand tells us that the worst this world can do has been fully borne by our Lord and our God; we cannot experience what our God has not experienced.

"Full of Eyes" artist, Christopher Powers