



**Purification:  
The Refining Fire of Repentance**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Seymour, Indiana  
March 22, 2023**

**Welcome to Worship!** The faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego led them into the fire of a fiery furnace. Faith leads us into the fire of repentance this Lenten season and every day. This fire purifies us and helps us amend our sinful ways. Just as Jesus protected the three Hebrew captives in the flames, so also Jesus endured the fire of God's wrath against our sin on the cross, and He refines and purifies us in faith as His people as we take refuge in Him.

**+++ Service of Prayer & Preaching, Page 260 +++**

**THE PRELUDE:** "Slow Movement from Voluntary" -John Stanley

**THE OPENING HYMN:** "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

**Hymn 610**

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**THE OPENING VERSICLES (LENT):** (page 260)

L: This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

L: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

L: Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C: let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

L: Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C: He was bruised for our iniquities.**

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **THE PASSION READING**

**LEADER:** Then they led Jesus off to Pilate. To avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

**WOMEN:** So Pilate came out to them and asked,

**LEADER:** "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

**ALL:** "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

**LEADER:** "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

**ALL:** "But we have no right to execute anyone."

**WOMEN:** This happened so that the words of Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

**LEADER:** They began to accuse him, saying,

**ALL:** "We found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

**WOMEN:** Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

**LEADER:** "Are you the king of the Jews?"

**MEN:** "Is that your idea, or did others talk to you about me?"

**LEADER:** "Am I a Jew? It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

**MEN:** "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. My kingdom is from another place."

**LEADER:** "You are a king, then!"

**MEN:** "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

**LEADER:** "What is truth?"

**WOMEN:** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

**LEADER:** The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him,

**ALL:** "Hail, King of the Jews!"

**LEADER:** Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

**WOMEN:** Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews,

**LEADER:** “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

**WOMEN:** When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them,

**LEADER:** “Here is the man.”

**WOMEN:** As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted,

**MEN:** “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered,

**LEADER:** “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

**MEN:** “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

**WOMEN:** When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. He asked Jesus,

**LEADER:** “Where do you come from?”

**WOMEN:** But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate asked,

**LEADER:** “Do you refuse to speak to me? Don’t you realize I have power to free you or to crucify you?”

**MEN:** “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But they insisted,

**ALL:** “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

**LEADER:** On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

**WOMEN:** Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them,

**LEADER:** “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and release him.”

**WOMEN:** Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them,

**LEADER:** "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

**MEN:** For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message:

**WOMEN:** "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

**LEADER:** But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

### **THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **THE LENTEN RESPONSORY:** (page 263)

L: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

#### **THE SERMON HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation"**

**Hymn 728**

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
- 3 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

- 4 "When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- 5 "Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

Text: Public domain

## **THE SERMON: "Purification: The Refining Fire of Repentance"**

### **THE PRAYERS:** (page 265)

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for  
the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us  
all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all  
who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned,  
and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**THE EVENING PRAYER:** (page 266)

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING:** (page 267)

**L: Let us bless the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**L: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.**

**C: Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN: “Renew Me, O Eternal Light”**

**Hymn 704**

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.
- 2 Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity  
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.
- 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.  
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.
- 4 Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above  
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Text: Public domain

**THE POSTLUDE: “Glory Be to Jesus” -Kevin Hildebrand**

**+++**

**Serving in Worship**

**Preacher:** Pastor Philip E. Bloch **Lector:** Pastor Ralph Blumenberg

**Liturgists:** Pastor Will Fredstrom, Vicar Case Farney, Pastor James A. Rodriguez, Jr.

**Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

**4:30 p.m. Audio:** Rick McAllister **Elder:** Steve Bobb, Joe Bullard

**7:00 p.m. Ushers:** Kurt Fenneberg, Brent Kilgas, Ben Thompson, Brian Burbrink, Baron Bullard, Dale VonDielingen, Greg Wehmiller, Roger Wehmiller, Mitchell Kilgas, Will Borcharding, Dustin Nichols, Tony Combs, Gary Schneider, Jay Hubbard, Daniel Luecke, Jed Strange **Elder:** Carl Emily, Wes Baker **Counting:** Mark Nichols, Matt Lambert, Joe Bullard, Kevin Lister, John Thomas, Kyle Gentry **Acolyte:** Jacob Lorenz **Audio:** Jeff Hopkins/Walter Batman

## **+ IMMANUEL MIDWEEK SERVICES +**

### **WEDNESDAYS, 4:30 & 7:00 P.M.**

**March 22** “Purification: The Refining Fire of Repentance”

**March 29** “Saving from Sin’s Slavery”

**April 6** Maundy Thursday – “Forgiveness Covers Sin”

*Communion 4:30 and 7; stripping of the altar*

**April 7** Good Friday – “The Cross Changes Everything”

*Noontime, 12:15*

*Children 4:30*

*Tenebrae 7:30*

**April 9** Easter – “Rising to our New Life!”

*Sunday 6:30, 9, 11:15; Monday at 7*

*Immanuel’s mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God’s inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at [www.immanuelseymour.com](http://www.immanuelseymour.com).*