

Welcoming
Growing
Sharing



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

21st February 2021

Beloved

Scripture

Read [Mark 1:9-15](#)

Reflection

Today, we hear from the Gospel of Mark, the gospel that doesn't include any stories of Jesus' background, family or birth - there are no shepherds, angels or wise men. Instead, we are taken straight to the announcement and confirmation of who Jesus really is. God himself says, 'You are my Son, the Beloved. With you, I am well pleased'. So, the very first thing that Mark does is to tell us exactly who Jesus is. For Mark, this is the starting point of the gospel, the very first thing that matters.

You know, one of the things that I love about this event out in the Jordan River is what God does not say. God doesn't say, 'I'm well pleased with Jesus because he has proved to me that he deserves it - he has quiet time with me each night, he always reads the Scriptures, and he really knows how to heal people'. No, nothing like that. As far as we know from all the gospels together, this is the start of Jesus' ministry - so far, he hasn't really done anything, and yet, he was called beloved - the one in whom the Father was well pleased.

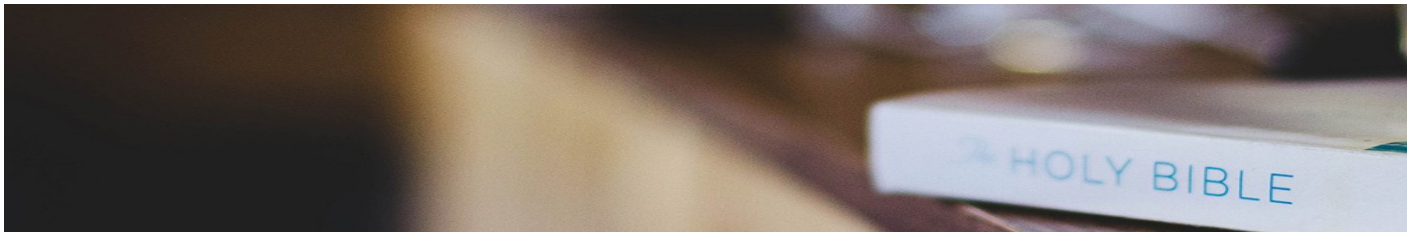
And at your own baptism, you didn't have to do anything. In your baptism, God proclaimed that you are his beloved child, and claimed you and named you as God's own. God's love is his free gift to you - just like your baptism is his gift, too. Baptism is not a ritual that we give to God, but God's act on us.

As Mark recorded, Jesus' baptism was an event of cosmic proportions, one that prepared him for what came next, because immediately following his baptism, that same Spirit - the one who first looked like a peaceful dove - sent him out into the wilderness for 40 days. Perhaps you know something of the wilderness, of uncertainty, of fear. In the midst of the wilderness, what is it that we can hold onto? What is it that we know? We know who and whose we are - God's beloved children, with whom he is well pleased. Live in the love, light and promise of this good news!

by Sue Westhorp (LCA Daily Devotions)

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for claiming us as your own through baptism.
When we experience wilderness in our lives, remind us of our identity in you.
Amen.



WE PRAY

21st February 2021

Dear Lord, we pray:

- ♦ For our mid-week Lenten activities. May members of all SW Metro Zone congregations be motivated to participate, and may all who do participate receive a fresh understanding and inspiration to “Return to the Lord”.
- ♦ Thanks for the opportunity to celebrate today all Baptisms that have taken place in January, February, or March. May we all always treasure the privilege of being adopted into your family.
- ♦ Your blessing and guidance for our AGM today. May we know your calling on us as a congregation and receive the courage and the resources to take it up.
- ♦ Thanks and praise to you for the blessings you poured out on our Messy Church gathering last Sunday. May all who attended be inspired by it.
- ♦ Thanks to you for continuing to protect Australia from the COVID-19 virus. Please guide all countries around the globe to bring their outbreaks under control.
- ♦ We thank you, Lord, for the miracles of modern medicine and we pray that would expedite the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines to enable the worldwide eradication of this virus.
- ♦ Lord, you create life, you give us life, and you teach us to treasure the sanctity of life. Bless us with the courage to take appropriate action to encourage our MPs to seek and follow your will as they debate and vote on the proposed Abortion Bill.

Guide us, Lord, as we pray for:

- ♦ The leaders you have appointed over our country: Prime Minister Scott Morrison, State Premier Steven Marshall, and all our local government leaders.
- ♦ The leaders you have appointed over our church nationally (LCA Bishop John Henderson, Assistant Bishop Andrew Pfeiffer, and the College of Bishops), and locally (District Bishop, David Altus, and Assistant Bishop for Mission, Stephen Schultz).
- ♦ The Pastoral Care Workers you have called to serve in our region. In particular, we pray for Brighton Primary School as they seek a new PCW, and we praise you for giving Sam Chan the opportunity to move on to Glenunga High School.
- ♦ The pastors and parishes, principals, and schools of the LCA in our South West Metro zone. This week we pray for Pastor Tim Kowald, and the staff and residents of Fullarton Lutheran Homes.
- ♦ The teachers, staff, students, and families of Immanuel Primary School and Immanuel College and their Principals Bec Clements and Kevin Richardson.
- ♦ ILC’s collaboration with the Glandore/Underdale congregation.
- ♦ The chaplains you have called to serve in the universities, prisons, and hospitals around our state.
- ♦ The sick, the frail and the distressed in our congregation. We pray for Avis R, Barb K and her sister Rae, Barb S, Jason W, Kathy J, and Nikki Hernan, and their carers.

2021 Annual General Meeting
Immanuel Lutheran Church
TODAY Sunday 21 February—11:00am
ILC Chapel



Mid Week Lenten Bible Study
Return from Betrayal
Lead by Pastor Matthew Huckel
Wednesday 24 February—7:30pm—ILC Room



Pastor Greg Page

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Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator

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COMING UP

Sunday 21 February	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion
Wednesday 24 February	7:30pm	Mid-week Lenten Bible Study—ILC Room
Thursday 25 February	9:00am	Prayer Group in Prayer Chapel
Sunday 28 February	9:30am	Lay Reading Service

SWLMN

The South West Lutheran Ministry Network is a partnership between Faith LC Warradale, St Pauls LC Glenelg, St Marks LC Underdale, Calvary LC Glandore and Immanuel LC Novar Gardens.

Here are some of our shared ministries:

Men's Breakfast - at Warradale, 8am 3rd Saturday of the month.

Contact Warradale church for more information: 0409496462

Youth at Warradale. Contact Warradale Lutheran Church for more information.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 9:8-17

God's covenant with Noah

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

The flood a symbol of baptism

Mark 1:9-15

The baptism, temptation, and preaching of Jesus