

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

The 6:30 p.m. Evening Liturgy



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

Welcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Ash Wednesday is probably the most solemn and soul-searching liturgy of the whole year. Here we stand at the start of Lent, ready to contemplate our Lord Jesus as he follows his path toward the Cross for our salvation. He is such a good man— soon to be lost for our sake! Ash Wednesday asks us to be like him, including following his disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity. Ash Wednesday is stark, reminding us that “You are dust and to dust you shall return.” It is a good time in life for us to turn to spiritual matters. Yet please remember that the ashes to be applied to you this evening are formed in the shape of the Cross, and in remembering this, take heart. You have a Savior, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are delighted that you are here and hope that you will return. Welcome back to our main weekly liturgy: 11 a.m. Sunday mornings. If you do not already have a church home in our city, please consider joining this congregation. We would rejoice to have you. Just send me an email (gpfrayer@gmail.com) or speak with Pastor Carol Fryer (ceafryer@gmail.com) or with Pastor Lara Bhasin (lara.bhasin@tsm.edu).

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting One

PRELUDE

Solemn Improvisation

Please stand as the Minister enters and goes to the center aisle.

Pastoral Exhortation

☩ In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

☐ Brothers and sisters: God created us to for joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our heavenly Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love — the discipline of Lent — help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Kneel. Silence for reflection and self-examination.

☐ Most holy and merciful Father:

☑ **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

☐ We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

☑ **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

☐ Too often, we have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

☑ **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

☐ We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

☑ **we confess to you, Lord.**

Ⓟ Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our willingness to take advantage of other people,

Ⓞ **we confess to you, Lord.**

Ⓟ Our anger, our impatience, our failures of kindness, and our envy of those better off than we are,

Ⓞ **we confess to you, Lord.**

Ⓟ Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

Ⓞ **we confess to you, Lord.**

Ⓟ Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

Ⓞ **we confess to you, Lord.**

Ⓟ Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.

Ⓞ **accept our repentance, Lord.**

Ⓟ For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice against those who differ from us,

Ⓞ **accept our repentance, Lord.**

Ⓟ For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our meager concern for those who come after us,

Ⓞ **accept our repentance, Lord.**

Ⓟ Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Ⓞ **Hear us, Lord for your mercy is great. Amen.**

Litany of Penitence

Ⓝ O God the Father in heaven; O God the Son, Redeemer of the world; O God the Holy Spirit:



Ⓞ Have mer - cy on us.

- D** O God, who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from his way and live;
- C** **Have mercy on us.** (*sung*)
- D** Who forgave the sins of your disobedient people at the prayer of Moses;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who did put away David's transgression when he confessed and repented of his sin;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who spared the Ninevites when they repented in sackcloth and with fasting;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who came into the world to save sinners;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who received publicans and sinners and did eat with them;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who in mercy looked on Peter, who denied you;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who on the cross did promise Paradise to the penitent thief;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who did bear our sins in your own body on the tree;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who was bruised for our iniquities;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who gives time and place for the repentance of our sins;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- D** Who rebukes and chastens those whom you love;
- C** **Have mercy on us.**

The Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." While waiting in the pew, you might want to meditate on Psalm 90, on page 258 of the LBW.

After all desiring ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession:

Kneel

- P** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.
- C** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

- P** By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,
- C** **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

- P** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand.

The Liturgy of the Word of God

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

☐ Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen**

Sit

FIRST LESSON..... Isaiah 58:1-12, RSV

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. The LORD reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

¹“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet;
declare to my people their transgression,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet they seek me daily,
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that did righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³Why have we fasted, and thou seest it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and thou takest no knowledge of it?
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a man to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a rush,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am.
“If you take away from the midst of you the yoke,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

¹⁰if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.

¹¹And the LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your desire with good things,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters fail not.

¹²And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-17

Charles W. Schramm, Jr.



Cantor ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your / lovingkindness,*
in your great compassion blot out / my offenses.

All ²**Wash me through and through / from my wickedness,***
and cleanse me / from my sin.

Cantor ³For I know / my transgressions,*
and my sin is ev- / er before me.

All ⁴**Against you only / have I sinned***
and done what is evil / in your sight.

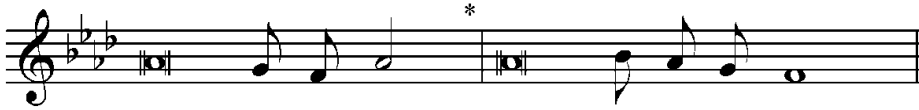
Cantor ⁵And so you are justified / when you speak*
and upright / in your judgment.

All ⁶**Indeed, I have been wicked / from my birth,***
a sinner from my / mother's womb.

Cantor ⁷For behold, you look for truth / deep within me,*
and will make me understand / wisdom secretly.

All ⁸**Purge me from my sin, and I / shall be pure,***
wash me, and I shall be / clean indeed.

(Continued, next page)



Cantor ⁹Make me hear of / joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken / may rejoice.

All ¹⁰**Hide your face / from my sins,***
and blot out all / my iniquities.

Cantor ¹¹Create in me a clean / heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir- / it within me.

All ¹²**Cast me not away / from your presence,***
and take not your Holy / Spirit from me.

Cantor ¹³Give me the joy of your saving / help again*
and sustain me with your boun- / tiful Spirit.

All ¹⁴**I shall teach your ways / to the wicked,***
and sinners shall re- / turn to you.

Cantor ¹⁵Deliver me from / death, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of / my
salvation.

All ¹⁶**Open my / lips, O Lord,***
and my mouth shall pro- / claim your praise.

¹⁷**Had you desired it, I would have / offered sacrifice,***
but you take no delight / in burnt-offerings.

The Psalm concludes with the Gloria Patri:

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the / Holy Spirit:**
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for- / ever.
Amen.

SECOND LESSON..... 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 6:10, NRSV

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to restore us to Him, if we be willing. St. Paul writes this:

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE (*Spoken by all.*)

☩ Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, NRSV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Sixth Chapter.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him....

¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves

treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

After the Gospel:

☞ The Gospel of the Lord!

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN LBW 91

Savior, When in Dust to You

ABERYSTWYTH

SERMON

Following the sermon, silence for reflection. Then stand for the Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED

☞ I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: **“The Peace of the Lord be with you.”**

THE OFFERING *We collect our tithes and offerings via our good, old offering plates. Or you can contribute via our QR code. Just point the camera on your smart phone to the code:*



The Eucharistic Bread and Wine are moved from the credence table to the altar.

HYMN LBW 295

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

AUS TIEFER NOT

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER IV (*The Prayer of Hippolytus of Rome, 2nd/3rd century*)

☐ We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

☩ **Amen**

☩ **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.**

FRACTION (*The Bread is broken*)

Agnus Dei

☩ **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- ✦ Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians. Lutherans celebrate this Blessed Sacrament with the understanding that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and are distributed to and received by all who commune.
- ✦ Please come forward by way of the center aisle and the minister will drop the Communion host into your hands. Then bear off to the side where the minister will distribute the Eucharistic wine. When you are done with the wine, please place your little cup on the tray. We mean to carefully and respectfully dispose of the remaining wine in the little cups.
- ✦ You are welcome to bring your hymnal with you to the Communion rail and continue singing the hymns until receiving the sacrament.
- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly after receiving the Holy Communion, here is a possible such prayer. It is based on a prayer of St. Basil the Great (329-379):

☉ Master, Christ our God: I thank you for all the good things which you have bestowed upon me, and for this partaking of your life-giving Sacrament. And I pray: keep me, my loved ones, and this congregation under your protection, and in the shadow of your wings. For you are the Bread of Life, the Fountain of holiness, the Giver of good things, and unto you we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

HYMN LBW 296

Just As I Am, with One Plea

WOODWORTH

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- ☑ **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☐ Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Silence for reflection.

SOLEMN BLESSING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

- ☐ May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.
- ☑ **Amen.**
- ☐ May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.
- ☑ **Amen.**

☩ May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

☩ **Amen.**

☩ And may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

☩ **Amen.**

HYMN LBW 99

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

CAITHNESS

DISMISSAL

☩ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

All may leave in silence.

Parish Announcements

- ☩ “Solemn Blessing for Ash Wednesday” comes from *Enriching the Christian Year*, 1993.
- ☩ ABOUT TODAY’S PARAMENTS AND VESTMENTS: The color used throughout Lent is purple, symbol of our penitence and his royal suffering for us.
- ☩ The LENT BANNER above and to the right of the pulpit was commissioned by our church and created by church artist Richard Caemmerer, Jr., who describes his banner thus: “The spears pierce the blood which becomes wine for our Eucharist and which becomes water for our Baptism.”
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Service Notes

Organist and Choirmaster Zac Schurman
Cantor Olivia Ericsson, Tony Beck, Kerrigan Bigelow
Preacher Rev. Gregory P. Fryer
Presiding Minister Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
Lector and Assisting Minister..... Rev. Lara Bhasin

Intercessions

FAIRLY NEW TO THE PRAYER LIST: Diane Kinley, Davida Goldman, Clifford Rose, Susan McIntosh (Richard McIntosh’s sister), Stephen and Jean Fischer, Sally Graudons.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street ❖ New York, NY 10128 ❖ (212) 289-8128

Office Hours: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday - Friday

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LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION 11 a.m. Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 a.m. Sundays
BIBLE STUDY 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, Martin Luther Room or via Zoom
PARISH SECRETARY Karen Katz-Shea
SEXTON Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER..... Charles Derderian
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER..... Zac Schurman
CANTOR..... Olivia Ericsson oliviaer@umich.edu