



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

12:00 Noon

Welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.

We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card, and we'll be happy to send information on how you can get involved at Immanuel.

Facilities

- Our parking lot is located on the south side of the church off Sherman Avenue. You may park in the lot at any time, whether for church events or for shopping or other errands in downtown Evanston; weekdays, see the church office at the Lake St. entrance to get a parking pass. On Sundays, additional parking is available across the street at the Holiday Inn or in Lot 6 on Lake St. across from the Police and Fire Headquarters. Parking meters are free until 1 pm on Sunday.
- The parking lot entrance is an accessible entrance. An elevator is located just inside that door.
- Restrooms are downstairs near the meeting of the two hallways. Accessible restrooms are located near the elevator on both upper and lower levels. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the lower level by the elevator.
- We love having children in worship! There is a nursery and changing/crying room for parents to use, if needed, located downstairs. There are also changing tables in both restrooms on this level, by the elevator. An usher will be happy to direct you.
- Hearing assistance is available. Ask an usher for equipment.
- Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the building. The network is "Immanuel," password "allarewelcome". Please use the Internet responsibly!

Gathering: *The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...*

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

P: Presiding Minister **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister **R:** Reader **A:** Assembly
+ All may make the sign of the cross.

We gather in meditative silence. Please stand when the ministers enter.

Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

A **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P 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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A **Amen.**

The Assembly is seated.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 58:1-12

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

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

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
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 them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator 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 for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your 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 live in.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 51:1-17

The Psalm is read responsively. The Assembly reads the boldface verses.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

R A reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians.

^{20b}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.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

P This is the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“So 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.

⁵“And 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.

¹⁶“And 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.

¹⁹“Do 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands.

Invitation to Lent

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The ministers kneel. The Assembly is seated, bowed in a posture of penitence.

P Most holy and merciful God,

**A we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

P 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.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P We have shut our ears 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.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our past unfaithfulness,

the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to share the faith that is in us,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our neglect of human need and suffering,

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our false judgments,

our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**A Hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

Blessing of the Ashes

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

*All those who wish may come forward to receive the sign of ashes.
You may kneel or stand to receive the ashes, then return to your seat.
When directed, the Assembly stands.*

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

A that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

A bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our + Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

A Amen.

Prayers of the People

L Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

[A brief silence.]

L We pray for the church. Turn our lives toward you in repentance. Turn our hearts toward our neighbors in love. Turn our actions toward the world in mercy. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Yehiel, our president, Scott, for our council, and for all those you have gathered here in your name. Renew us in faith, in prayer, and in compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L We pray for the world. Teach us to treasure the earth as your beloved creation. Provide plentiful and healthy homes for all creatures. Bring new life from decay. Repair what has been damaged from misuse or neglect. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L We pray for the nations. Empower leaders to resist the use of power for personal gain or selfish interest. Teach us to build communities where all can live in safety and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L We pray for those in need. Protect those who are victimized by crime or injustice. Unburden those who are weighed down by guilt or shame. Assist those who are unemployed. Comfort those who mourn, and heal the sick, especially those we name now aloud, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Margaret Carlson, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Judith Kratochvil, Richard Lewis, Elaine Nelson, Andy Sheer, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, Doris Strom, and those we name in our hearts [...]. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L We pray for this assembly. Deepen our faith. Empower those who work in our community to provide food, shelter, and health care to those who are in need. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.

L Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died in faith, especially Elizabeth Fedde. Bring us with them to the promise of unending life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

A hear our prayer.

P Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A Amen.

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

A And also with you.

*Greet one another in the peace of Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.
If you prefer not to shake hands, you might raise your hand in a gesture of blessing
as you speak peace to your neighbors. After the Peace, all return to their seats.*

Lenten Prayer

L Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Sending: *God blesses us, and sends us in mission to the world ...*

Blessing

P Almighty God, Creator, + Redeemer, and Sustainer,
bless you now and forever.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly departs in silence.

Serving in worship today...

Presiding Minister..... The Rev. John Lang
Assisting Minister..... Anne Heider
Lector Anne Heider
Usher..... Nicolai Schousboe

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

Scott Romans	Congregation President
Lisa Larson	Congregation Vice President
Sara Krentz	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Dana Barron, Tom Couch, Linda Edlund, Greg Hummel, Bert Mount, Erik Shearer, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff	Congregation Council Members
Mary Ann Kearns	Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Stegner	Assistant Financial Secretary
James Morehead.....	Music Director
Greg Hummel.....	Organist
Laurie Stivers.....	Associate Organist
Jane Kaihatsu.....	Parish Administrator

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod.
We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**