

Ash Wednesday, February 17th 2021
Zoom Service 7:00 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

We begin in silence.

Announcements

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reading from the Old Testament, Isaiah 58:1-12

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[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.”

Sermon

HYMN: Restore in Us, O God, ELW 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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Invitation to Lent

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Let us come before God, our creator and redeemer, and confess our sin.

Most holy and merciful God,
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 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.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
For boundless love of self,
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
For longing to have what is not ours,
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
For misuse of human relationships,
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

**For jealousies that divide families and nations,
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

**For inequity in sharing the gifts of God,
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

**For hurtful words that condemn
and angry deeds that harm:**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

**For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

**Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Meditation: Remember that we are dust

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

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection

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.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need,
responding to each petition with the phrase, "receive our prayer."

O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, pastor Kim, pastor Mark, our president Grace, our council, transition and reopening team. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

O God, you heal our every ill. Bring relief from the pandemic, for those suffering from covid-19, for medical workers, for first responders, for those in need of meaningful work, and for all who await a vaccine. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Laura Burdick, Mid Carlson, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Pat Helm, Jim Jung, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Gordon Larson, Elizabeth and Ernie's family, Elaine Nelson, Veronica Repasz, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, George Stewart, Leslie Thais, family and friends of Scott Weidler, the congregation of Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida Congregación San Pablo and family and friends of Pastor Kreisher, and those that we name in our hearts (*pause for prayers*). and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

And now, siblings, for what else shall we pray, silent or spoken aloud? (*A longer period of silence.*) Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

Offertory Anthem: Create in Me

We worship God with our offerings. We give thanks for those who support Immanuel's life and mission. [We invite you to do that online](#) or by mail, and with your presence, prayer, and talents.

Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.

**Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table: Lent

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,

together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
And for this we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
And for this we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

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

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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.

Communion

Come for all things are now ready; the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

Table Dismissal

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Amen.

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

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.

Thanks be to God.

All leave in silence. You are invited to stay for silent meditation.

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