

Ash Wednesday





IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sweet Springs, Missouri
February 18, 6:30 p.m.

LENT: Today begins the forty-day season of Lent. As we approach the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross during this time of the church year, we reflect upon and repent of our sins which caused Jesus to live and to die on our behalf. Our worship service today highlights the solemn nature of this time. We omit the usual joyful music before and after the service. Our hymns, responses and Scripture readings lead us to a repentance of our sins and to a firmer trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of those sins. The somber tone of our worship today (and of all our Lenten midweek services) will make our celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter all the more meaningful.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. For more information about this sacrament, please see pages 326-327 and 329-330 of *Lutheran Service Book*.

AN ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

(We are silent before worship to ask God's blessings upon us.)

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to reverent worship.

(please stand if you are able)

CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: page 290

We sing LSB 609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" as worshipers who so desire come forward for the imposition of ashes. Afterward please be seated.)

HYMN VERSE: (tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here")

**To the Lord, your God, re-turn,
Hearts in true re-pent-ance rend-ing
Of His grace and mer-cy learn,
Grac-ious gifts of God's own send-ing,
Words with pa-tient wel-come sound-ing
And with stead-fast love a-bound-ing.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Joel 2:12-19

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and make not Your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The LORD answered and said to His people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.** Page 2

THE EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

(please stand if you are able)

HYMN VERSE: *(tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here")*

**Let us, then, take up the cross,
Our own selves for Christ de-ny-ing
All things else re-gard as loss
For the gifts of His sup-ply-ing
His re-buke, re-pent-tant, heed-ing,
Fol-low Christ's de-ter-mined lead-ing.**

THE GOSPEL READING:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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.

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**
(please be seated)

HYMN: 722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

SERMON: “Do Not Be Afraid” Revelation 1:17-18

¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

OFFERING

(please stand if you are able)

THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts in praise to God.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You bid Your people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name,

evermore praising You and saying: **C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(we pray in unison)*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: ...The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

HYMN VERSE: *(tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here")*

**Oh, cre-ate a heart with-in
Cleansed by Your free Spir-it's giv-ing
From in-iq-ui-ty and sin,
Fit for pure and righ-teous liv-ing.
May the joy of Your sal-va-tion
Fill my voice with a-dor-a-tion**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: *(please be seated)*

611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

715 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

627 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

(please stand if you are able)

HYMN VERSE: *(tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here")*

**Come, then, all by sin de-filed;
In des-pair be not for-sak-en.
To your God be re-con-ciled;
Christ in love your place has tak-en.
You who would re-ceive God's bless-ing,
Faith-ful fol-low, Christ con-fess-ing.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

P: Let us pray: Gracious Lord, we thank You for having renewed us in this sacrament of Your Son's body and blood given and shed for us upon the cross. Grant that through it the Holy Spirit will strengthen us in faith and in love towards You and in service to one another;

C: in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and to be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and (+) give you His peace. **C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: 610 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

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Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Celebrant: Rev. Mark Nebel

Organist: Mr. Ron Baker Acolyte:

NEXT WEDNESDAY our midweek Lenten services continue at 6:30 p.m. Our main theme this year is “To Him Who Overcomes.” Next week we will examine “To Him Who Overcomes Jesus Will Give the Right to Eat From the Tree of Life” (Revelation 2:1-7). Our Board of Missions will serve a Chili and Soup Supper for a free-will offering in the church basement beginning at 5:30 p.m. Page 6