ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2024 IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod

703 W 3RD Street Mercedes, Texas 78570 956.565.1518 Immanuelmercedes @gmail.com Rev. Ed Weber,

Pastor eweber10@aol.com 956.463.1305

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Class Sunday School 10:30 am

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

<u>Website</u> lutheranmercedes. com

https:// Www.facebook.com/ Lutheranmercedes/

Office Hrs, M-F 8:00 am to 12:00 pm CCLI # 2585510



Objects of the Passion of Christ

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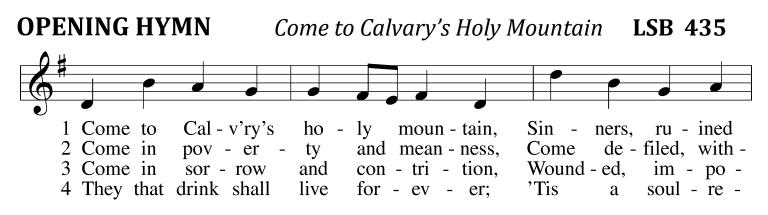
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE February 14, 2024

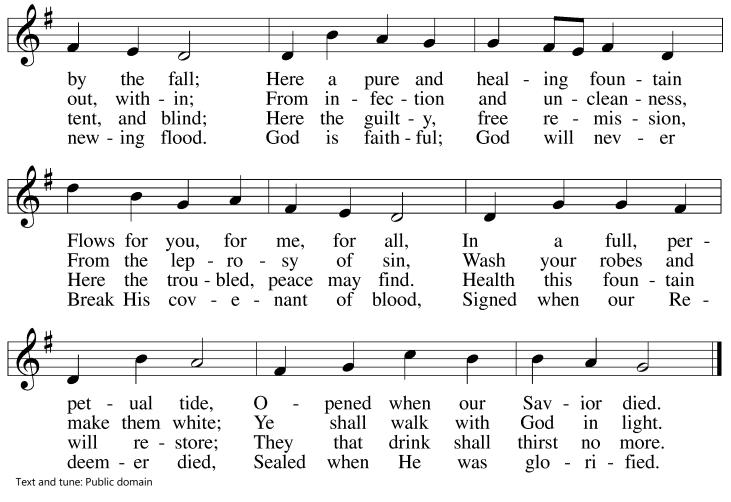
WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors here today. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

AS WE GATHER Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a period of 40 days known for its disciplines, such as fasting, praying, and devotional reading. As we receive the ashes upon our foreheads in a very visible way, it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that our Lenten disciplines are for the sake of showing our piety to others. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. The focus of Lent is not on our sacrifices for God but on His ultimate sacrifice for us in Jesus Christ. Lent calls us to fully turn to Christ, repenting of our sin and receiving anew His saving mercies in the treasures of His Word. While the ashes of this special day remind us that we are dying, Christ's body and blood are offered to us as proof that, in Christ, we are brought to life again. Life is ours, full and free, because of the sacrifice of Christ, who breathes new life into the dust of our death.

PRELUDE (A Quiet Time for Prayer and Meditation)





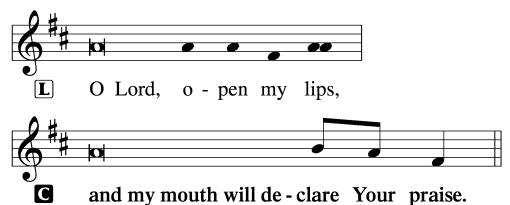
VESPERS

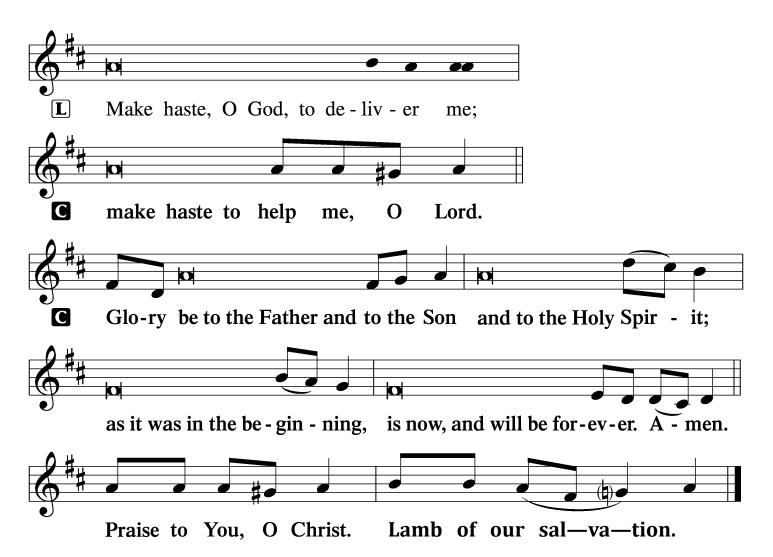
Please stand

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- C Amen.

RESPONSE





PSALM *Psalm 51:1–13*

- P Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
- C Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- P For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
- C Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.
- P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.
- C Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

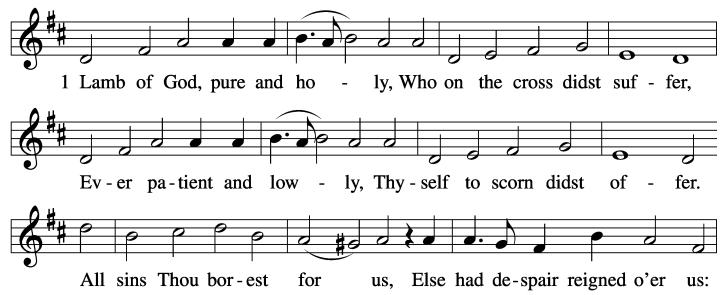
- P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.
- P Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- P Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- C Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
- P Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

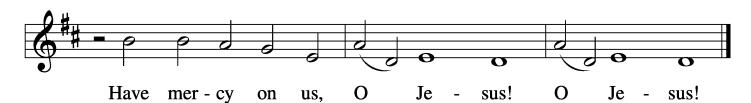
IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P The pastor may apply ashes to the forehead or wrist of each worshiper who desires, while speaking to them the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19) Yet Jesus promised, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25)

The penitent responds, "Amen."

HYMN (during the imposition of ashes) Lamb of God, Pure and Holy LSB 434





- 2 Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer. Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer. All sins Thou borest for us. Else had despair reigned o'er us: Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
- 3 Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer. Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer. All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us: Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus! Text and tune: Public domain

Please sit

FIRST READING Joel 2:12–19

12 "Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. 14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him—a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; 16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and

nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. 17 Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' " 18 Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, and pity His people. 19 The Lord will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

20 we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says:

"In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the

day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. 4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, 5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; 6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, 7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READINGLuke 22:1-23

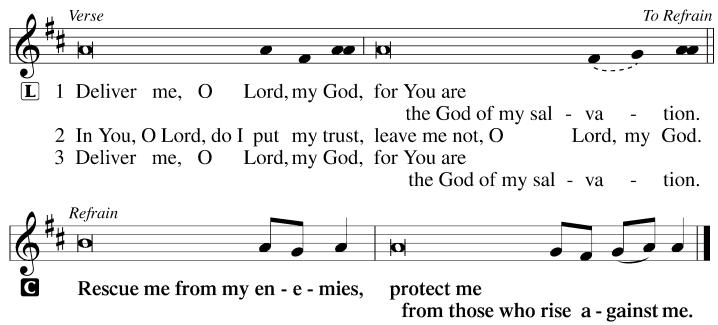
1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. 3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.

7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. 8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." 9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" 10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. 11 Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" ' 12 Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." 13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. 15 Then He said to them. "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. 21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. 22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" 23 Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY



HYMN OF THE DAY

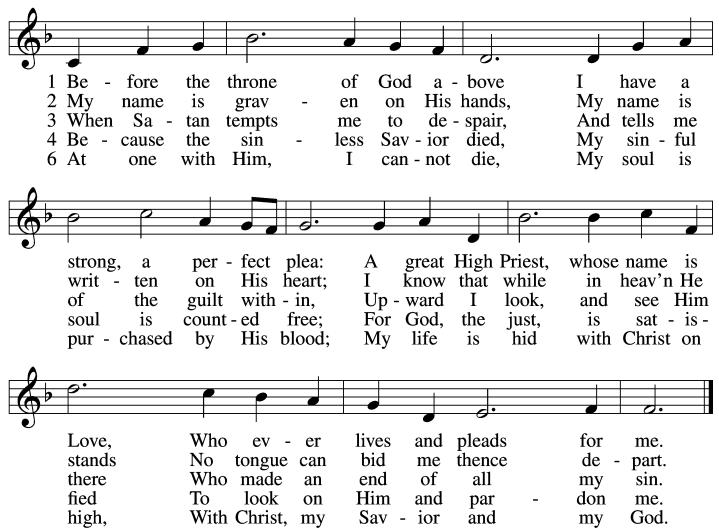
What Is the World to Me

LSB 730

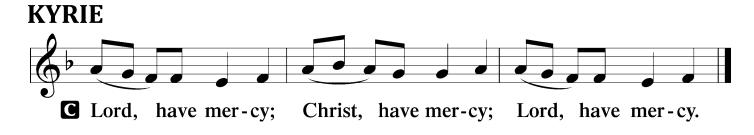


SERMON OFFERING Please stand OFFERTORY

Before the Throne of God Above LSB 574 vs. 1-4,6



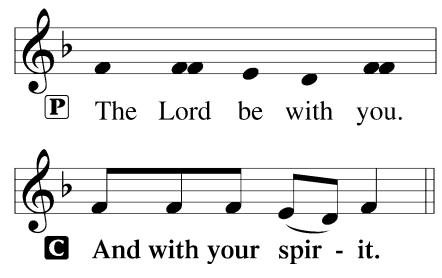
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LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COLLECTS

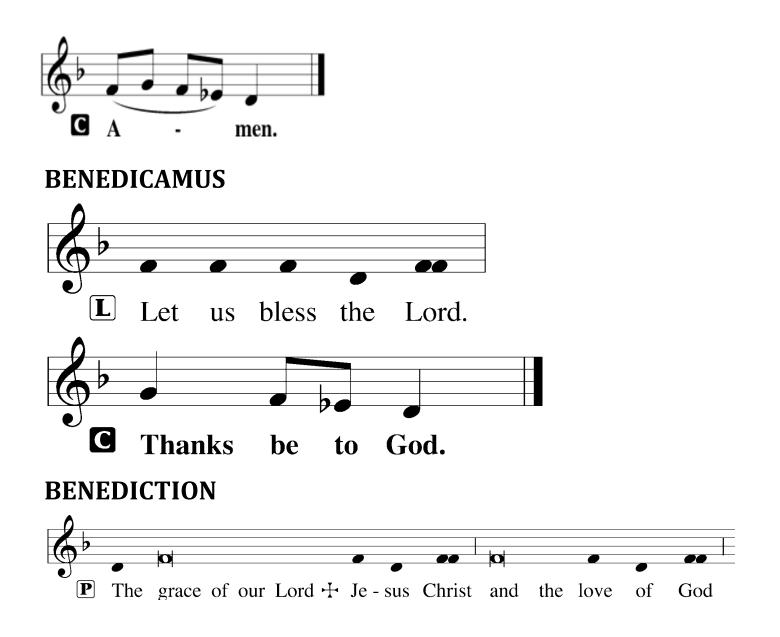


COLLECT OF THE DAY

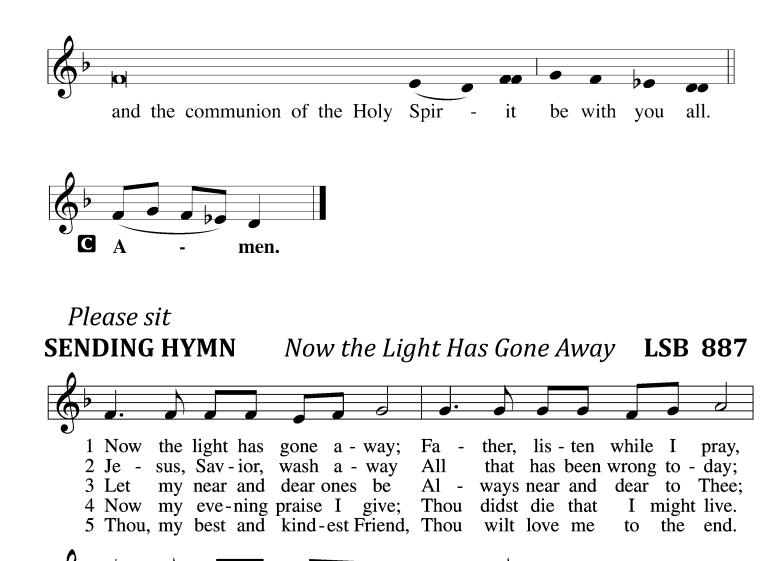
- P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



13



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep. Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.

O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove. All my bless-ings come from Thee; Oh, Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore. Text and tune: Public domain



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What is Ash Wednesday all about?

You may see something strange happening in church on Ash Wednesday. You'll see your family and friends go forward to receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads. The strange part about all of this is that it will be done with the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday palm branches.

J.

Why do we do this?

Usually when someone gets dirty they know they need water to get clean. The ashes that are put on our foreheads remind us that in sin we are dirty and need to be cleaned. It also helps us to remember the first time the sign of the cross was made on us at our Baptism. In the waters of Baptism, we are cleaned and the dirt of sin is washed away. Ash Wednesday helps to remind us of this.

> Parents: At home after the service, when your children are washing the ashes off, remind them once again that we are washed clean of sin at our Baptism. Jesus did all of this for us through His death on the cross which we prepare for during Lent. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of this time of preparation.

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