

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

**IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
*Missouri Synod*



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***Sunday Worship Service*  
9:00 AM**

**Adult Bible Class  
Sunday School  
10:30 am**

**Holy Communion:  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Website  
lutheranmercedes.  
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www.facebook.com/  
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**Office Hrs, M-F  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**CCLI # 2585510**



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

## February 26, 2020

### 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**      The Bible is a dust-filled book, with references to dust at the beginning in Genesis all the way to Revelation, the last book of Scripture. In Old Testament times, dust or ashes placed on the head was a sign of sorrow and mourning. Dust also has been associated with the grave and death. The word of the Lord first spoken to Adam echoes in our minds: "You are dust." Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality but also reminds us that in His great love, God has "dusted us off" through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for our sins—the truth that is at the heart of the message of Lent.

### PRELUDE

*(A Quiet Time for Prayer and Meditation)*

### OPENING HYMN

*Savior, When in Dust to Thee*

- 1      Savior, when in dust to Thee  
        Low we bow the\_adoring knee;  
        When, repentant, to the skies  
        Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
        O, by all Thy pains and woe  
        Suffered once for us below,  
        Bending from Thy throne on high,  
        Hear our penitential cry!
- 2      By Thy helpless infant years,  
        By Thy life of want and tears,  
        By Thy days of deep distress  
        In the savage wilderness,  
        By the dread, mysterious hour  
        Of the\_insulting tempter's pow'r,  
        Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;  
        Hear our penitential cry!

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### ADDRESS

- P      Brothers and sisters, we are entering the season of Lent, a time for contrition and repentance, a time of preparation to celebrate our Lord's Easter resurrection. The discipline of Lent has traditionally included repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of

love. They all help us wage our spiritual warfare against the sin that separates us from one another, from God, and from His good creation. Scripture tells of many trees, some literal and some figurative; from them we will seek to gain insight and depth of faith as we see again our need for a Savior and our Lord's sacrifice on our behalf. I invite you to commit yourselves to this Lenten discipline.

**OPENING**      *Psalm 1:1-3; 96:12-13; Isaiah 61:1, 3*

P      Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the LORD.

**C      He is like a tree planted by streams of water.**

P      The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; . . .

**C      that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD.**

P      Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD,

**C      for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.**

**INVOCATION**

P      In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C      Amen.**

**CONFESSION**      *Psalm 80:19*

P      Let us respond to our heavenly Father's invitation and confess our sins to Him and one another.

**C      Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You for we have "eaten forbidden fruit" in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual fruit in keeping with the new life You have won for us. We cannot free ourselves from the temporal and eternal punishment of our sin. Amen.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

P      Ashes have been a sign of repentance throughout the centuries. They are reminders of the "sackcloth and ashes" worn by penitents of ages gone by. In the shape of the cross, they announce our reliance on our Lord's sacrifice on the tree of the cross on our behalf.

*Those desiring ashes come forward as directed. As he makes the sign of the cross with the ashes, the pastor reminds the penitent, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

**The penitent responds, "Amen."**

*Silence is kept as the ashes are applied. Those in their seats may meditate on Psalm 51 in the hymnal.*

**ABSOLUTION**

P      After His triumph over Satan's temptations in the wilderness, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth and announced that the prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled in Himself. The prophet had written, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me . . . to grant to those who mourn in Zion . . . a beautiful

headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **+SERVICE OF THE WORD+**

#### **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy Spirit.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. 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.**

#### **FIRST READING**

*Genesis 2:8–9, 15–17; 3:1–24*

(Our first parents eat the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)

8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him,

Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

16 To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

"Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. 22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 1; antiphon: v. 3*

P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

C **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

P but his delight is in the law of the LORD,

C **and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.**

P The wicked are not so,

C **but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

C **nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**

P for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

**C but the way of the wicked will perish.**

P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

**SECOND READING** *Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

(When giving His people a choice between life and death, the Lord urges them to choose life.)

15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

**LSB 780**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 6:1–8*

(Jesus preaches about the blessings God provides His downtrodden followers.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. 5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY (Choir)

*The Tree of Life*

LSB 561

SERMON

*"A Tree of Testing"*

(Genesis 2:7-17)

### APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**Amen.**

OFFERTORY

*Create in Me*

LSB 956

OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the Church here and around the world, and people everywhere in their various needs.

For everyone weighed down by their bondage to sin and an inability to stop sinning by thought, word, and deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**C For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, open their ears to hear the Gospel anew; free them to live before You in Your kingdom.**

P For everyone who has fallen prey to society's distorted morality, let us pray to the Lord.

**C For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, surround them with faithful and caring members of the Body of Christ; call them back in repentance and hope.**

P For those who keep the peace at home or are deployed abroad, for those who provide care and guidance in relationships, finances, and health, and for those who respond to natural disasters and crises of various sorts, let us pray to the Lord.

**C For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, accompany them with Your Holy Spirit; protect them from harm, and give them wisdom in all circumstances.**

P For ourselves and the Church around the world as we seek to produce true spiritual fruit, let us pray to the Lord.

**C For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, assure us that we are Your pleasant planting; forgive our errors, and send us to**

**serve in faithfulness and love.**

P These and any other things You would have us ask, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Abide with Me*

**LSB 878**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

P 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.

*(Numbers 6:24-26)*

C **Amen.**

**HYMN (Choir)**

*Go Now in Peace*

Don Besig & Nancy Price

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

