

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Manitowoc, Wisconsin



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 14th, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Christian's 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and tomb, preparing for the proclamation of Easter. The 40 days are reminiscent of several biblical events:

*Jesus' 40-day fast at the beginning of his ministry,
Moses' stay on Mount Sinai at the giving of the law,
Elijah's fast on his way to the mountain of God.*

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian's Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance (Genesis 18:27; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21).

Service of Confession and Absolution

Reading

Psalms 51

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
- ²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
- ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.
- ⁵Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- ⁶Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- ⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
- ¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.
- ¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my

tongue will sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

¹⁷My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

¹⁸May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Invocation

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

Amen.

Introduction to Confession

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in fellowship with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

Please Stand

Confession

Most holy and merciful Father,
**we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,
by our own grievous fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

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.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have placed our wants before your will.
We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.
We have merited your punishment now and forever.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives
we confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,
our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than
ourselves
we confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us

we confess to you, O Lord.

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
forgive us, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,
forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

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

By the cross and suffering of your Son,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Absolution

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be Seated

Hymn – From Depths of Woe, Lord God, I Cry

CW 650 Vv1-3,5

Sermon

Psalm 51

What Do You Have to Say for Yourself?

1. I'm sinful
2. I need forgiveness
3. I'm joyfully forgiven

Please Stand

Sermon Response

Psalm 51



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

4pm – Junior Choir sings “It Is by Grace”

ilutheran.org/imhere



Prayer of the Church for Ash Wednesday

Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Hymn – Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

CW 404 vv1-4

Blessing

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Closing Hymn – Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

CW 404 v5

O my God, my rock and tower,
grant that in your death I trust,
knowing death has lost its power
since you crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let your agony
ever help and comfort me;
when I die be my protection,
light and life and resurrection.



Musician: Ann Wilson

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Bowe