

ASH
WEDNESDAY



Remember that
you are dust, and to
dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Pastor Kim Krogstad

Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY:

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Please feel free to sit anytime during the service if the need arises.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand for the Confession and Forgiveness)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.



P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

(Remain Standing)

OPENING HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" LBW 482

APOSTOLIC GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

(Please Sit)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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.**

GOD'S WORD

Psalm 51:1-17

Please join me in the responsive reading.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

P: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: ² Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

P: ³ For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C: ⁴ Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

P: ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: ⁶ Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

P: ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C: ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

P: ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

C: ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

P: ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

P: ¹³ Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C: ¹⁴ **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

P: ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C: ¹⁶ **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

P: ¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.

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

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

P: Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. *(Joel 2:13)*

Sing: “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

P: The gospel reading is from the book of Matthew Chapter 6 verses 1-6, 16-21.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please sit)

SERMON

Pastor Kim Krogstad

SERMON HYMN: “Just as I Am, without One Plea” LBW 296

(Please stand for the Nicene Creed)

NICENE CREED:

Green LBW page 84

(Please sit for The Prayers of the People)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

(Please Stand)

THE PEACE:

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

C: And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace with one another.

**The OFFERING is RECEIVED AND WE STAND and SING
“Create in Me” LBW Page 96**

OFFERING PRAYER:

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen.

(Remain Standing)

IMPOSITION of ASHES

The WORDS of INSTITUTION

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(Please join hands)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Green LBW page 91

When we celebrate Holy Communion, guests and members alike need to know that **All Are Welcome At Our Lord’s Table!** We believe Christ is present in the bread and wine. His body and blood are given in the Eucharist for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord invites you and the decision to receive Holy Communion is yours. (We have gluten-free individually packaged sacraments in one unit.)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

P: Come to the table. Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Take My Life, that I May Be”

LBW 406
vs. 1-2

COMMUNION BLESSING:

P: The body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith unto Life Everlasting.

C: Amen

COMMUNION PRAYER:

P: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION:

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Be Thou My Vision”

WOV 776

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Tonight, Ash Wednesday, Service Schedule, February 18th, 6:00 P.M.

Altar: Toby Rosenberg and Pastor Bob **Communion:** Wayne Heitmann

Reader: Verlyn Rebelein **Usher:** Annette Raube

Mid-Week Lenten Service Schedule, February 25th, 6:00 P.M.

Usher: Marlene Connell