

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

1865 14TH AVE

GREELEY CO 80631

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**“WELCOME TO IMMANUEL”
INSIDE, OUTSIDE, AND ONLINE WORSHIP**

*Note that our guidelines will evolve over time as restrictions increase or decrease.
Thank you for your faithful flexibility as we worship our beloved Lord and Savior!*

INSIDE

- Please practice social-distancing. Save important conversations and visiting for outside where it is safer.
- Masks are required inside and advisable outside.
Pick up your bulletin on the table inside and put your offering (or pledge) in the offering plate.
- Let the usher know if you have a preference where you would like to sit. They will try to seat you based on your group size and your preference.
- Talk as little as possible and only in a soft voice.
- Only the worship leaders sing and speak out. Hum the songs if you feel so led.
- Communion cups/wafers are already set up in the pews. Put the used cups back in the wooden holder when you are finished.
- The usher will dismiss you.
- Inside worship is inevitably different than before the pandemic. For the best experience, you may want to view it as a more reflective time enjoyed in a beautiful, sacred space where you can listen, share in communion, and attend to God.

OUTSIDE

- Safer than inside worship, outside worship doesn't require masks in your vehicle—although masks are advisable when interacting with others like the usher who brings you:
 - ◇ Your bulletin.
 - ◇ Your combined communion cup & wafer.
 - ◇ An offering box to put your offering (or pledge card).

- Please turn your car radio to this radio station:

FM 90.9

- Feel free to sing and join in as loudly as you want during worship. Take home the used communion cups and dispose of them.
- Outside worship reminds us of the fun and comradery of the summer parking-lot worship. It is a way of worshipping more closely with others while staying safe in our vehicle. Like the inside worship, communion is offered.

ONLINE

- The safest and most convenient worship experience, online worship involves just a few steps:
 - ◇ If you wish to celebrate communion, prepare ahead of time bread or cracker, as well as juice or wine.
 - ◇ Go to www.immanlutheran.org on your computer, smartphone, tablet, etc.
 - ◇ View or print out the bulletin before watching the service. You may also request to have a paper bulletin mailed to you each week.
 - ◇ Click on the video link and worship!
- Online worship is the safest and most convenient worship experience. It is recommended for the most vulnerable. Although missing the social element of worshipping together inside or outside, the online worship can in some ways feel the most “normal.”

Welcome to Worship!
We are a “Church Together”

God calls us to be a church together as we find ourselves physically separated, but spiritually united as one community of God. Whether you are a visitor or longtime member, you are welcome to join us in worshipping Jesus Christ.

Offerings may be mailed to the office:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1865 14th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631

Contact the Office and Pastor:

Office phones (970-352-3003) will be monitored during office hours and messages responded to in a reasonable manner. For the safety of everyone during this pandemic, we have been advised to not have in-person meetings or visits. If you have a pastoral concern, either call the office and leave a message to set up a time to converse with Pastor Daren, or if urgent, text or call Pastor Daren at 760-814-5171.

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The presiding minister leads the following or another confession.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most 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, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal**Offering****Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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**

Communion

After all have communed:

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion:

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daren Erisman
Organist: Stan Elmquist

