

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

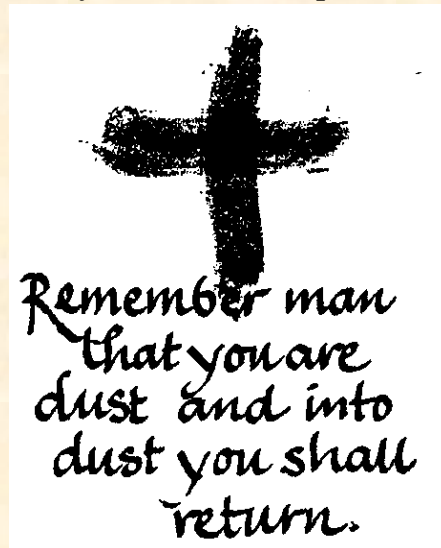
212-289-8128

www.immanuelnyc.org

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Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021, 6:30 p.m. liturgy



W elcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Ash Wednesday is probably the most solemn and soul-searching liturgy of the whole year. Here we stand at the start of Lent, ready to contemplate our Lord Jesus as he follows his path toward the Cross for our salvation. He is such a good man— soon to be lost for our sake! Ash Wednesday asks us to be like him, including following his disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity. Ash Wednesday is stark, as if to say, “Time’s a wasting. You are dust and to dust you shall return. It is high time to turn to spiritual matters.” Yet please remember that the ashes to be applied to you this evening are

formed in the shape of the Cross, and in remembering this, take heart. You have a Savior, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are delighted that you are here and hope that you will return. Welcome back to our main weekly liturgy: 11 a.m. Sunday mornings. If you do not already have a church home in our city, please consider joining this congregation. We would rejoice to have you. Give me a call or send me an email (gpfrayer@gmail.com).

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

From the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) Service for Ash Wednesday

Please stand as the minister enters and goes to the center aisle.

☩ In the Name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We continue with the great penitential Psalm 51.

PSALM 51, LBW (*Read responsively by verse*)

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

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

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

⁵And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

⁶**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

(Continued, next page)

- ⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ¹⁰**Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**
- ¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹²**Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- ¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹⁴**I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.**
- ¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
- ¹⁶**Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
- ¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- ¹⁸**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**
- ¹⁹Be favorable and gracious to Zion,
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- ²⁰**Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt-offerings and
oblations;
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.**

The Psalm concludes with the Gloria Patri:

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

PASTORAL EXHORTATION

☞ Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love — the discipline of Lent — help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you,

therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Kneel. Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most holy and merciful Father:

C **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P 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.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P 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 your Holy Spirit.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C **accept our repentance, Lord.**

P For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C **accept our repentance, Lord.**

P For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

☩ accept our repentance, Lord.

☩ Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

☩ Hear us, Lord for your mercy is great. Amen.

Sit

The Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." While waiting in the pew, you might want to meditate on Psalm 90, page 258. After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in concluding the confession.

Kneel

☩ 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 Lord,

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

☩ Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand for the Prayer of the Day and the reading of the Holy Gospel.

The Liturgy of the Word of God

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☩ 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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 6:10, NRSV

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 restore us to Him, if we be willing.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE (*Spoken by all.*)

C Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Sixth Chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

After the Gospel:

☐ The Gospel of the Lord!

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Silence for reflection, and then stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

THE PRAYERS

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "The Peace of the Lord be with you."

Sit

THE OFFERING

Donate now: [Donate](#)

Here are some other options for giving: [Ways to Give](#)

P Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

- ☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER IV (*The Prayer of Hippolytus of Rome, 2nd/3rd century*)

☐ We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

☑ **Amen**

THE 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.

THE FRACTION. *The Eucharistic Bread is broken.*

AGNUS DEI

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ If you are home during this pandemic, worshipping online with us, here is a possible “Prayer for Spiritual Communion” lifted up in a recent *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

All may leave in silence.

Parish Announcements

- ✦ “Solemn Blessing for Ash Wednesday” comes from *Enriching the Christian Year*, 1993.
- ✦ ABOUT TODAY’S PARAMENTS AND VESTMENTS: The color used throughout Lent is purple, symbol of our penitence and his royal suffering for us.
- ✦ The LENT BANNER above and to the right of the pulpit was commissioned by our church and created by church artist Richard Caemmerer, Jr., who describes his banner thus: “The spears pierce the blood which becomes wine for our Eucharist and which becomes water for our Baptism.”
- ✦ COPYRIGHTS: Parts of the liturgy and scripture introductions come from or are based on those from *Sundays and Seasons*, Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. Readings of Holy Scripture are downloaded from Bible Gateway — <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Copyright information for the various translations is included on the Bible Gateway website.
- ✦ NEW TO PRAYER LIST: William Kaufman (friend of Edna Szmodis), Raymond Chin (cousin of Priscilla O’Carroll), Lois Richardson (mother of Carole Smith), Melissa Alke (friend of Kathy Jolowicz), John Romano (brother-in-law to Richard and Maggie Schreiber), Marion Molno, Emma Kaefer, Robert Mallery (son-in-law of David Kiehl’s sister), Wolfgang Hahn, Yoleidy Perez (Tamares’s brother), Obdulia Mundo (friend of Maggie Schreiber), Mary Ann Grant (Deirdre’s mother)

Some Notes on Our Church Nave and Liturgy

- ✦ You might be interested to hear about our reredos — the wooden altarpiece at the front of our church. It was hand carved by artists in Germany's Black Forest. The left statue is Moses, with the Ten Commandments in his left arm and the two horn-like rays of light shining forth from his face after his encounter with the Lord on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:29-30). The right-hand statue is St. John the Evangelist, with a quill pen in his hand and an eagle at his feet. And the center statue is Jesus Christ, the personal unity and the most perfect meaning of the Law (Moses) and the Gospel (St. John).
- ✦ Our painting of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, above the reredos, pays tribute to the founding liturgy of our congregation, Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 1863. Our painting shows Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the ground, so that at first glance you might think that it is a painting of the Ascension. But the saintly company with Jesus — Moses and Elijah on either side, with Peter, James, and John fallen down in awe at the sight — point to the Transfiguration. Heaven knows and gives credit to the anonymous painter of our painting, but we note that it is in the style of Raphael's painting of *The Transfiguration* (1517-1520). Raphael also placed Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the disciples.
- ✦ Our church windows were installed in 1973 and constitute a visual meditation on an ancient hymn of the Church, the *Te Deum*. Pamphlets are available in the rear of the church explaining the windows one by one.
- ✦ Our church bells, named *Glaube*, *Hoffnung*, and *Liebe* for Faith, Hope, and Love, were a gift from German Empress Augusta Viktoria.
- ✦ A hint about acoustics: you will be able to hear the choir and organ better if you sit toward the front half of the church. The overhanging choir balcony obscures some of the beauty of the music for those sitting under it.
- ✦ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me," and we view the presence of children in worship, even when they are wiggly and noisy, as a gift to the Church and an encouragement that our congregation is growing! Parents at their own preference are also welcome to take advantage of free childcare which we offer in the Undercroft every Sunday for children age 3-6. Our childcare worker will bring these children up to the Communion rail to receive a Blessing. We encourage older children to attend the entire service, either sitting with their parents or up in the balcony where the teens tend to congregate.
- ✦ Our worship book is the green hymnal, the *Lutheran Book of Worship* ("LBW"). This book contains both liturgies and hymns, with liturgies in the first half and hymns in the second. Sometimes we include hymns from *With One Voice* ("WOV") or from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ("ELW").
- ✦ If you have a cell phone, please silence it for the liturgy. And please finish coffee or other drinks out in the narthex rather than in the main nave.
- ✦ This congregation is a member of the NALC – the "North American Lutheran Church." The national bishop of the NALC is Rev. Daniel W. Selbo.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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HOLY COMMUNION	11 AM Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION	6:30 PM Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Via Zoom these days
MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY	6:30 PM Mondays, via Zoom these days
INTERIM OFFICE MANAGER	Melissa Phillips
SEXTON.....	Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER.....	Charles Derderian
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.....	Dr. Gwendolyn Toth
PASTOR.....	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
SENIOR PASTOR.....	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Some Parish Ministry Opportunities:

CHOIR Director of Music Dr. Gwendolyn Toth (212) 289-8128

We extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that you will return. If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Carol Fryer. If you are interested in membership here at Immanuel, please contact the church office for an appointment with Pastor Carol. Or you can email her at ceafryer@gmail.com.

- ✦ HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Church's faith, who confess it with us (as in the Creeds), and who may in good conscience receive the Sacrament in keeping with the understanding with which it is celebrated here: namely, that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and are distributed to and received by all who commune.
- ✦ HOLY BAPTISM is celebrated and MARRIAGES solemnized only after consultation with the pastor well in advance. If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, homebound, or otherwise in need of the ministry of the Church, let us know. Call the church office during the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✦ We mean for PRIVATE CONFESSION to be available as often as you need. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gpfryer@gmail.com or ceafryer@gmail.com.
- ✦ LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL FOR THE SICK is available. Again, simply contact Pastor Fryer.
- ✦ FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: There is a long line of Christians, both rich and poor, who have disciplined themselves to budget a portion of their income, put it into an offering envelope first thing, and give it to the church. Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer live by that tradition and commend it to you. Online giving is also available through our website, or by following this QR code with your phone camera:

