



*Ash Wednesday
with Holy Communion
Immanuel & Wilmington
Lutheran Churches
February 18, 2026*

Welcome to this place of praise and prayer. We gather today in celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as part of God's family.

- ❖ We would appreciate having you sign our guest book so that we can remember your presence with us. Please note that in the ELW the page numbers are printed at the bottom of the page and hymn numbers are located at the top. The order of worship is outlined on the following pages.
- ❖ The offering reminds us that all of life is a gift of God. We are stewards of that gift. In response, a portion of our income is given as an act of worship to do God's work in the world. Immanuel is a first-fruits congregation. That means that every Sunday when the offering is taken in, we give first to the mission and the ministry of the ELCA. We don't wait to see if we can pay our bills before we give away for God's mission. It is our hands doing God's work, for the sake of the world our Lord loves.
- ❖ We serve Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and at all festivals. We offer an open invitation to all baptized believers to participate. It is our understanding that Christ offers his body and blood with the bread and wine to forgive sin and strengthen faith and life. If you receive communion in your home church, you are welcome to receive communion here.
- ❖ We have a toddler worship area in the middle-right section of our pews. This area is intended for children ages 0-3 accompanied by an adult(s) to sit during worship. Children 4K-6th Grade are welcome to join us for Sunday school during worship downstairs. This is a space for families to be fully engaged in worship, while providing quiet activities for young children to accommodate their natural need to move and be busy. Please follow posted guidelines for use of this space. Thank you!
- ❖ We have accommodated seating available in the middle-left and the front-right sections of our pews. Please feel free to utilize this space for those who may need it!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FIND US ONLINE



www.immanuelcaledonia.org



www.facebook.com/immanuelcaledonia



www.lacrosseareasy.org

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Introduction

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.

Welcome And Worship Announcements

*Please note all **bold** text throughout the service are congregational responses

Gathering Hymn *Savior, When in Dust to You* vs. 1 & 2 **#601**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:1-17 (Read Responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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 your 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.

THE WORD

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.

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!**

(Please stand as you are able)

Lenten Acclamation

#176

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 6. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ But 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so 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, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

(Congregation may be seated)

Sermon

Hymn Of The Day (with intro)

Restore in Us, O God

#328

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
(Silence is kept for reflection)

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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.

Amen.

Pop-Up Choir

Remember That You Are Dust

Imposition of Ashes

Page 253

Those who desire to receive ashes will come forward.

The pastor will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:

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

(During the imposition of ashes, worshippers in their seats are invited to read and reflect on Psalm 90.)

Hymns during Imposition of Ashes

Abide with Me #629

Just As I Am #592

Lord Jesus, Think on Me #599

(After all have returned to their seats, the worship continues)

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.

Prayers Of The People

The response to each prayer will be, "God of grace,"

Congregation reply will be, "**Hear our prayer.**"

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

#190

Words of Institution

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God (with intro)

#199

Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymns

<i>Our Father We Have Wandered</i>	#606
<i>Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service</i>	#712
<i>Bless Now, O God, the Journey</i>	#326

Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Sending

God Blesses Us And Sends Us In Mission To The World.

Benediction

Announcements

Sending Hymn

Once We Sang and Danced

#701

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to Today's Volunteers!

We would love to have your help during our worship service. Please sign up at the kiosk in the church narthex or on the church website under the sign-up link on the home page. Thank you!

Greeters:

Ushers: Dave Renslo & Dean Schutte

Reader: Jana Dittmer

Presentation Clicker:

Live Stream: Cheryl Kuennen

Acolytes: Chloe Kruse & Brayden Klug

Communion Servers: Suzanne & Chloe Kruse, Shannon & Brayden Klug

Host/Hostess: Jana Dittmer



***Immanuel & Wilmington
Lutheran Churches
Holden Evening Prayer Schedule***

**Wednesday Evenings, 6:30 pm
At Immanuel Lutheran Church**

- February 25
- March 4
- March 11
- March 18
- March 25