



February 14, 2024, 5:30 pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa
Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr
www.immanuelfamily.com
in person | live stream

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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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG: **“All Who are Thirsty”**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING

As we begin the season of Lent, let us turn inward and tune our hearts. Before an orchestra plays together, they must all tune their instruments—the cacophony of this process may be very loud and create lots of dissonance, but it’s a necessary step in the process of creating harmonies and melodies. And so, this Lent, how can you tune the instrument of your heart so that it aligns with God?

CONFESSION

L: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES – SONG: **“Beauty for Ashes”**

FORGIVENESS

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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 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.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51:1-17

SERMON

Pastor Zech

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *L: God of Mercy. C: Hear our prayer.*

Ruby Sue Albertsen

Joyce Kasper

Casey Sink (Audrey's daughter)

Kristy Anderson

Donna Kvale

Jennie Spencer

Liam Bartleson

Chris McCormick

family of Carolyn Thompson

Hayden Despenas

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

Lucky Truong

Parker Farland

Melvin Peterson

Missionary Karen Anderson

Ruth Gernetzke

Carroll Reines

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes

Tim Schmidt

OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING SONG: **"40 Days"**

BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

DISMISSAL

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Please designate your offering for 'general fund' or 'Lenten offering'. Lenten offerings will go towards our covenant for ELCA Missionary Karen Anderson in Santiago, Chile.

Worship Participants:

Worship Band: Geno Lopes-base, Jason Slater-vocals, guitar, Elizabeth May-vocals, Antonio Lopes-drums, Donovan Johnson-piano

Audio/Video: Nic Determann

Ushers: Squire family, Mary Kingland

