



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Negaunee, Michigan
Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024, 6:00 PM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. This is not a matter of what we can do for God, but of what God can do for us. Now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

WELCOME

GATHERING

OPENING

Let us prepare now to enter the desert.

We will walk the road that Jesus walked.

Let us celebrate these forty days together.

We will fast and pray with Jesus on the way.

Let us remember the times we turned away.

We will confess our sin and turn back to him.

Let us face those desert places in our lives.

We will not go there alone: Jesus has gone there before us.

Face the desert we must, if we are to reach the cross of Easter.

Face the desert we must, but Jesus has gone there before us.

OPENING HYMN

***Oh Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* #319**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept a fast. May we do the same, repent and turn to you. Be with us through all we face and free us from our past; give us strength that in joy we may follow you, and see the mystery of your grace shining through at last. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

WORD

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN JOURNEY:

JOEL 2: 12-15

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;

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

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

The holy gospel according to.....

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."

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

SERMON

Pastor Bre Kinnunen

HYMN OF THE DAY *Be Thou My Vision* #793

PSALM OF CONFESSION: PSALM 51: 1-4, 10-12 (Spoken in unison.)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against 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.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

We take a moment for prayer and reflection.

RECEPTION OF FORGIVENESS

Our God is merciful and the Source of our salvation, who desires not that we live in shame or guilt but rather with the Spirit's help we turn from what we do to hurt ourselves and others and accept forgiveness. Therefore, may the One who came to restore life bless you and restore you by the Holy Spirit, for the living of new life in Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **In the name of Jesus Christ, we know that we are forgiven.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You may come forward to receive the ashes in the shape of the cross on your forehead hearing the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

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.

PRAYER

Let us pray together:

God of all love and grace, we stand at the edge of these forty days, with your help, praying for our sins and accepting your forgiveness, knowing the commands of Christ and going your way. And so we pray that Lent will be a time of turning to you, that your ways will become our ways:

Let us feed the hungry; let us give the thirsty drink; let us clothe the naked and welcome the stranger; let us visit those in prison and the sick; let us tear down walls and build bridges. Let this be our prayer and our way of life, so that when all is said and all is done, we may inherit a place at the table you have prepared for us. This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to say when we pray ...

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.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Create in Me a Clean Heart

#188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy and generous Host, **you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your good-ness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

2 In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus

took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

COMMUNION



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*Blessed Are They
 Just As I Am*

**Choir
 #592**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
 We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the desert and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Love what love can do. Be all that you can be. God is calling you.

This is not the past.
 Do not live there.
 Let the voices go.
 Do not cling to what is gone.

This is not the future.
 You are not there yet.
 Let the worries be.
 Do not live where you are not.

This is here and now.
 This is all you have.
 Do not miss where you are.
 For it will not stay for past or future to replay.

Live the life that you are in.
 You cannot live where you have been. You cannot be where you are not.

Be in the time you are in. Love what you can do. Be all that you can be. No one can live for you. Or be what you can be.

Live and love what love can do. The time is now.
 The place is here.
 Love and live what you can do. God is calling you.

DISMISSAL

Go now into the desert places where God calls you to go, and be what God calls you to be. And may the blessing of Almighty God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen**

POSTLUDE

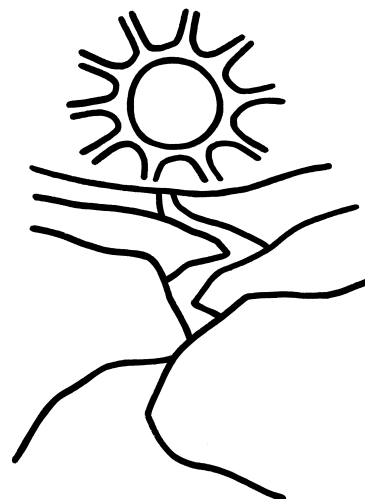
Portions of tonight's liturgy is taken from "God of Desert Places" by Rebeka Maples

PL10493
 ISBN 978-1-84952-584-8

Published 2018:
 Wild Goose Publications
 21 Carlton Court, Glasgow, G5 9JP, UK,
 the publishing division of the Iona Community. Scottish Charity No. SC003794. Limited Company Reg. No. SC096243 www.ionabooks.com

© Rebeka Maples
 Cover image © Rhbabiak13 | Dreamstime.com

All rights reserved. Apart from reasonable personal use on the purchaser's own system and related devices, no part of this document or file(s) may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, by any means, without the prior written permission of the publisher.





OUR PURPOSE

Immanuel, God with us, renewing lives in Christ through the Holy Spirit

Guiding Principles

Prayer taps into God's renewing power

Faith is renewed through the **Word & Sacraments**

Worship that renews is done with **many voices but one heart**

Renewing mission is best supported by **leaders committed** to God's vision

Renewed lives **welcome and care** for one another

Renewed, we **live and serve** within a greater community

Renewed lives **witness to others**

LENT/EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

- February 21, 5:00pm—Soup Supper followed by Lenten Service at 6:00pm
- February 28, 5:00pm—Soup Supper followed by Lenten Service at 6:00pm
- March 6, 5:00pm—Soup Supper followed by Lenten Service at 6:00pm
- March 13, 5:00pm—Soup Supper followed by Lenten Service at 6:00pm
- March 20, 5:00pm—Soup Supper followed by Lenten Service at 6:00pm
- March 28, 6:00pm—Maundy Thursday Service
- March 29, 6:30pm—Good Friday Cantata at W.C. Peterson Auditorium at Ishpeming High School
- March 30, 6:00pm—Easter Vigil
- March 31, 8:30am and 10:30am—Easter Service



Serving in Worship

Pastor Bre Kinnunen

Organist: Connie Scanlon

Ushers: Julie Vargason,
Paulette Patron

Lector: Walter Scanlon

Communion Assistant: Walter Scanlon

