

through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **C: Amen.**
SILENCE

***Prayers:** Each petition ends with “*Lord in your mercy,*” followed by the congregational response, “**Hear our prayer**”.

*Eucharistic Prayer for Ash Wednesday

*Lord’s Prayer: *Traditional Version*

Invitation & Distribution: Holy Communion is the Lord’s Supper for the Lord’s People: “All are welcome to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, & believe that Jesus Christ, crucified & risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread & wine for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation.” We are practicing distancing Communion following worship tonight. Please follow the directions of the ushers. With repentant hearts, we receive the body & blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Gluten-free wafers & consecrated grape juice are available.

Communion Hymn: “In Christ Alone” — ReClaim #215

P: Let us pray: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in our baptism, that we may practice our piety, provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*Benediction

***Hymn: “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”—ReClaim #186**

*Dismissal — *Assembly departs in silence*

Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Word & Sacrament is a blessing to you. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are praising, proclaiming, & practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May God grant us repentant hearts during the 40 Days of Lent.

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.



Worship
Ash Wednesday
Feb. 17, 2021
6:00 p.m.

ReClaim Hymnal

* indicates stand as you are able

Assembly gathers in silence

Call to Worship: Psalm 51

***Opening Hymn: “Softly and Tenderly” — ReClaim #177**

***Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And Also with you.

P: Let us pray: “Merciful God, turn our hearts toward you and bring us to repentance. Through your great mercy, grant us clean hearts and renew in us a right spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Joel 2:12-19

Second Lesson: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Lenten Verse: “*Hark! Real Presence Jesus Brings*” (*Sing to the tune of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”—ReClaim #106*)

*“Christ, in earthly flesh we see, Unexpected Trinity,
Neighbors need the love we share, Saving grace in human care.*

*Present in the Word He gives, Present in the Bread He lives,
Sent forth in His name we sing, Sin & death have lost their sting.
Hark! Real Presence Jesus brings, “Glory to the King of kings.”*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon: “Practicing Our Piety Publicly” Rev. David Steffenson

*Hymn: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” — ReClaim #187

Confession of Sin and Imposition of Ashes

P: 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, & 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.

Silence for reflection & self-examination precedes the confession.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most holy and merciful God,

C: 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 most grievous 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, O God.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Containers of Ashes were given to each household as they entered worship tonight. Worshippers may anoint the brows of those who are in their family with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Make the sign of the cross as the anointing is given. After the ashes are received, the Confession continues.

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

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

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

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins

WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight:

Pianist: Karen Salz

Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Lee Pearce

Sanitizing Team: Julie Steffenson Sound: Don Holtan

Set-up and Take-down: Julie Steffenson & Peg Holtan

“Real Presence in Unexpected Places”—LENT 2021

Ash Wednesday: “Practicing Our Piety Publicly”

(Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

February 24: “Saul Gets Saved: Kicking Against the Goads”

(Acts 9:1-19a; & 26:9-18)

March 3: “When Lord? Buckets of Shrimp!”

(Matthew 15:29-39; & 25: 31-46)

March 10: “Go and Do Likewise” (Luke 10:25-37)

March 24: “God’s Got Plans for You!” (Jeremiah 29:10-14)

Eve of Palm Sunday, March 27: “Barefoot on Holy Ground”

(Exodus 3:1-15)

Maundy Thursday, April 1: “Servants of the Towel”

Guest Preacher: Dallas Grotten (John 13:1-20; 34-35)

Good Friday, April 2: “Dead Man Walking” (Luke 23:32-43)

Eve of Easter, April 3: “Practicing Resurrection & Real Presence”

(Mark 16:1-20)

SEMAC Mission Trip to Pensacola, Florida -- February 7-19

Please keep Larry Vomhof and his servant team members in your prayers as they serve in Florida and offer the compassion of Christ to people in need. Contact Larry for more information about SEMAC.

Men’s Bible Study IN-PERSON: Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 24 from 11am-12:00 Noon for a study of the appointed Bible Readings for the week ahead. We’ll meet in the Oasis Church, wearing masks & practicing safe, physical distancing. Bring a Bible.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
Contact Information: 3819—18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN
Phone: 507-206-3048 www.emmanuelofrochester.org

The Emmanuel Weekly

**February 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday - 6 pm**

**“Praising, Proclaiming and Practicing
Emmanuel—God with us—in daily life!”**

“Rend Your Hearts!”

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. The ashes (last year’s palm fronds) remind us that we are dust. The Season of Lent is forty days long. Sundays are days in Lent, but not days of Lent. During the forty days we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. We confess our sins.

This year on Wednesdays during the Season of Lent, we will be enjoying virtual worship via our Emmanuel Facebook page. Each week we will hear stories of how God reveals Himself as saving grace and real presence in unexpected places.

During the Season of Lent our Baptismal Font reminds us that baptism is our entrance into the Kingdom of God. Remember that

you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
God’s Word. God’s Promise!

Thank You! Soup to Go!

We offer thanks to Julie Steffenson for providing us with “Soup to Go” tonight. We hope you enjoy your take home soup. Thanks for sharing soup with others.

The February Emmanuel Prayer Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are available in print! Also, pick up your copy of the current Our Daily Bread.



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17—Worship at 6pm; Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion; Soup to Go! Soup to Share!
- Saturday, February 20 Lent I Worship at 6pm
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 Men’s In-Person Bible Study at 11am; Mid-Week Lenten Worship posted online.
- Saturday, February 27 Lent II Worship at 6pm with Installation of Church Council
- Sunday, February 28 Implementation Team Meeting at 5pm
- Friday, March 5-Council Meeting at 2pm
- **4:31 — Prayer Time!**

Scripture Readings for Ash Wednesday

First Lesson: Joel 2:12-19

12 "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 14 Who 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? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. 17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" 18 Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. 19 The Lord answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

L: The Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

5:20b We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For 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 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 3 We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the

Holy Spirit, genuine love; 7 by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, & yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, & behold, we live; as punished, & yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said,] 1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 5 And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head & wash your face, 18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Ash Wednesday PRAYERS

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

A: Heavenly Father, You do not want us to receive Your grace in vain. Because You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, work in the lives of each of us so that we return to You with all our heart. Because where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also, set our hearts on You, on Your Son, Your Spirit and Your life-restoring Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, on this Ash Wednesday, we beg You to send Your Holy Spirit to draw each of our hearts to Christ. Renew Your baptized people and cleanse us from all our sin, that we store up for ourselves the true treasures of heaven. Create in us new hearts, that we rededicate ourselves in this holy season to publicly practicing our piety in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, by Your Word and Spirit, turn to faith in Christ the hearts of those who live without Him. Grant to them the joy of Your salvation and the peace of knowing Him who had no sin but became sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, in the way & at the time You know is best, bring healing to all who are sick, injured, preparing for surgery, recovering or in distress **[especially those we name before you]**. Comfort all who mourn, provide for those who are seeking jobs and give peace to all who are anxious about the cares of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, turn our hearts as we come to the table of our Lord this day to recognize the enormity of our sins, so that our faith may be strengthened by the even greater forgiveness bestowed on us in Christ's body and blood. Inspire in each of us a life filled with good works that glorify You, so that others may see Your compassion and give You glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Hear our petitions, heavenly Father, for we pray in Your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and only Savior.

C: Amen.

Soup To Go!



LENT 2021

**Ash Wednesday
February 17 @ 6pm**

**Worship with Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion!**

**Home-Made Soup for Take-Home, and
for Sharing!**



We are collecting store-bought soup during the Saturdays in Lent, which will serve our neighbors in need through the distribution of the Salvation Army Food Pantry.

**Thanks for caring &
sharing
the love of Jesus!**



Opening Hymn: “Softly & Tenderly” — ReClaim #177

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home;
You who are weary come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

2. O for the wonderful love he has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. **Refrain:**

Hymn: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” — ReClaim #187

1. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me.
Died that I might live on high, Lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His and He is mine.
2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me--wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
3. O my Savior, help afford, By Your Spirit & Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply,
While I live and when I die.

Communion Hymn: “In Christ Alone” — ReClaim #215

ALL—1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

MEN—2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.

This gift of love, and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.

Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God, was satisfied.
For every sin, on Him was laid,
Here in the death of Christ I live.

WOMEN—3. There in the ground, His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again.

And as He stands, in victory, Sin's curse has lost, its grip on me.
For I am His, and He is mine,

Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

ALL—4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me.

From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck, me from His hand.
Till He returns, or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Hymn: “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy” — ReClaim #186

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice,
Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment giv'n.

2. There is welcome for the sinner,
And a promised grace made good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.