

Ash Wednesday
February 14th, 7:00 PM
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Grafton, Iowa

Interim Pastor: Pastor Paul Weeg

Lay reader: Phil Hackbart

Organist: Charlotte Cole

Acolyte: Raiden Kuntz

Prelude: "Oh Perfect Love"

Opening Hymn: **Be Thou My Vision**.....**WOV # 776**

OPENING RESPONSE

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

P: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

C: O God, when we look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have failed in our faithfulness and broken your law. We turned away when we were able to do good. We have turned our backs on the poor and abandoned the helpless, the homeless, the broken and lonely. We have held anger against those who have hurt us, and failed to seek forgiveness from those we have hurt. Forgive us, O God. As we begin the journey of these Lenten days, wash us completely, so that by the gift of forgiveness won for us by Jesus we shall be clean and made whole. Amen.

P: The Lord, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. God hears the cries of the repentant and forgives our sins. By our Lord's command I announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Please follow the ushers' guidance and step toward the chancel in a single line to receive the ashes. Return via the side aisle to your seat.)

P: Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.

*(ABSOLUTION RESPONSE: after all have received ashes:
sung to the tune of "Jesus Sinners Will Receive" LBW # 291)*

**C: 1) Now my conscience is at peace, from my guilt I stand acquitted;
Christ has purchased my release and my every sin forgiven.**

Nothing can cause me to grieve—Jesus sinners will receive.

**2) Jesus sinners will receive. I have also been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.**

At death's door to him I cleave—Jesus sinners will receive.

Old Testament Reading ... Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17 *(read responsively)*

LBW p. 239

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10 *(See insert)*

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Hymn: **Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**..... **LBW # 423**

SERMON

Offering

Prayers

P: Lord, we bring our praises to you, for you have done marvelous things. Your holy hand has lifted us from the curse of sin, and your kingdom of justice and peace is revealed in our reconstructed lives. Remember now your steadfast love and faithfulness to all your people, especially those we bring before you today. We pray for those in distant and troubled countries we could all too easily ignore. For the sake of your love send your peace into our broken world. Father in heaven: **C: your kingdom come.**

P: We pray for those who mourn, those who grieve, those who seek consolation, that through us they might be deeply comforted. Father in heaven: **C: your kingdom come.**

P: We pray for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, especially those we name in our hearts... Send your Spirit's presence and renew them. Give us eyes to see you in all of these in need. Father in heaven: **C: your kingdom come.**

P: We pray for healing of body and spirit, that your Spirit of love would guide those with healing skills, and that all your people might be restored to wholeness. Father in heaven:

C: your kingdom come.

P: We pray for the world you created and blessed, for the vitality of oceans, forests, plains, and mountains. Make us agents of your loving care so that the earth itself might be healed. Father in heaven: **C: your kingdom come.**

P: We pray most of all for your presence with us now. Equip us for your service, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the glorious King. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Great Thanksgiving	LBW	p. 88
The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)	LBW	p. 89
The Words of Institution	LBW	p. 89
The Lord's Prayer	LBW	p. 91
The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)	LBW	p. 92

Note to our guests: As your church's tradition and your conscience may allow, we welcome all who are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and who believe in the real presence of Christ in, with and under the bread and wine to participate in the celebration of Holy Communion.

(if you would like a gluten free wafer, please inform the communion assistant)

The Distribution *(continuous communion by intinction, follow usher's guidance)*

***O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*LBW # 99**

***The Glory of These Forty Days*.....WOV # 657**

The Post-Communion PrayerLBW p. 94

BENEDICTION – Amen

Closing Hymn: ***Our Father, We Have Wandered***.....WOV #733

Postlude

Thank you for joining us this evening...we will not have mid-week Lenten services on Wednesday evenings, but will have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services during Holy Week. Ash Wednesday and Holy Week offerings will be designated to the General Fund.

Please feel free to pick up this year's Lenten Devotional... written by NALC staff for this season. ***"An Eternal Kingdom: Prophets, Priests, and the Reign of the King"*** is the theme. They are available on the small table inside the wooden entrance doors.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made himself to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

