



*Ash Wednesday*

*February 18, 2015*

Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
**324 College Avenue, Modesto, California 95350**  
**(209) 523-4531 • [www.emanuellutheran.org](http://www.emanuellutheran.org)**

# Welcome to Emanuel

## Staff

### **Presiding Minister**

Pastor Bill Ruth

### **Organist & Choir Director**

Barbara Vukich

### **Day Care Director**

Laura Marquez

### **Bookkeeper**

Robin Swearingen

### **Secretary**

Paula Braxton

## Council Officers

### **President**

Suzanne Wilke

### **Vice President**

David Holtz

### **Treasurer**

Bob Reuter

### **Secretary**

Debbie Van Diepen

**Ash Wednesday Communion Service..... Page 3**

### ***WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!***

*Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please help us to know you by filling out a worship attendance form (located in your bulletin) and placing it in the offering plate.*

- **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available. •

*(Please ask an usher)*

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Council member – Mary Murray

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### Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Pat Norquist, Rob Shank, Bill Reinheimer

# ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2015

7:00 PM

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## GATHERING

*Lent begins* with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, 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.

### **Psalm 51:1–17 (read in unison)**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

**<sup>13</sup> Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.**

**<sup>14</sup> Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

**<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**<sup>16</sup> For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

**<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P The Lord be with you.**

**C And also with you.**

**P 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.**

**C Amen**

**P Please be seated.**

## **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.*

Blow 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 —

<sup>2</sup> a 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.

<sup>12</sup> Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup> rend 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup> gather 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.

<sup>17</sup> Between 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?'"

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

### **Chapter 5**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Chapter 6**

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

<sup>2</sup> 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!<sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,<sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,<sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;<sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,<sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;<sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;<sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed;<sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21**

P Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 6.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

"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.

<sup>2</sup> "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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup> "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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL RESPONSE** (*See previous page for Gospel Acclamation*)

**HOMILY**

Pastor Bill Ruth

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church* Red Book #321

**INVITATION TO LENT**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's

mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## **CONFESSON OF SIN**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (You may kneel.)  
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 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.

**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 **Have mercy on us, O God.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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.

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

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

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister 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 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**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. You are invited to kneel. (A brief silence.)

Holy God, you gather your people in solemn assembly. Grant us grace to observe a holy Lent through fasting, prayer, and works of love. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

You give generously to all your creatures. Provide for all animals whose winter rations are dwindling, and prepare the earth for the renewal of spring. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

You move your people to cry out for justice. Reveal all the ways in which we oppress others. Turn us from our complacency, and move us to work on their behalf. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

You lift up the poor. Care for all who know poverty of any kind: of daily needs, of spirit, of health. Pour your abundant mercy upon them. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

You turn people from their sin to live for you alone. Renew us in the covenant of baptism so that we might live in hope of a creation reconciled and restored. Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

As we remember saints who have gone before us, guide us in our journey and open our lives to the cleansing and renewing power of your abundant forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen**

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

## *Create in Me*

Red Book #186

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef and common time. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each phrase aligned with its corresponding musical notes. The lyrics are:

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.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the

pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,

we may come to the full - ness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san - na. 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

P O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.

**C Amen**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table of mercy, where the feast of life is spread.

Please be seated. *We will practice continuous communion at the altar rail. All baptized Christians are welcome to commune.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

Red Book #606

*Just As I am, Without One Plea*

Red Book #592

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P (Please rise.) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may 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

## BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

A Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**THOSE WHO SERVED US TODAY**

<b>Presiding Minister</b> .....	Pastor Bill Ruth
<b>Assisting Minister</b> .....	Eric Obermeyer
<b>Acolyte</b> .....	Emily Cline
<b>Lectors</b> .....	Dianne Santana, Paula Kroeze
<b>Communion Assistant</b> .....	Dianne Santana
<b>Usher/Greeter</b> .....	Clarke Family
<b>Altar Team</b> .....	Debbie Van Diepen



## LENT

### *Come, join in the journey of Lent!*

This year the season of Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday and ends with Holy Week and Easter Day on April 5. The 40 days of Lent are a time of reflection and renewal, a time when winter is fading away and the fulfilled promise of spring is yet ahead. This year, the Emanuel family has the opportunity to use this time to explore and reflect on the questions Jesus posed to his critics and followers, and still asks us today. He did not ask these questions to get or give simple answers. In fact, Jesus only directly answers three of the 186 questions addressed to him in the Gospels. Often, he answered a question posed to him with a question of his own.

It is not the task of the church to give simple answers to complex questions, as much as we would prefer that. Rather, it is to ask empowering questions that draw people into a deeper understanding of their own faith and discipleship. Jesus asks these kinds of questions—questions that reposition us, challenge our images of God and our place in the world, and present us with new and creative possibilities for transformation.

The quality of questions determines the quality of the answers. Limiting questions can only provide us with limited answers—the same old unhelpful answers that often just drag us down instead of draw us out. Jesus' empowering questions lead us to empowered answers. They shift our perspective to new and fresh ways of looking at and solving our problems or issues. These empowering questions affect the quality of our lives and deepen our faith and discipleship.

You are invited to join in a Lenten journey into deeper discipleship as each week we focus on one key question of Jesus.

- What are you looking for?
- Where is your faith?
- Who do you say that I am?
- What do you want me to do for you?
- Do you love me?
- How will you believe what I say?
- Whom are you looking for?

In this journey centered on scripture, we will discuss, meditate, and pray. We will also sing and worship with a simple evening service. Come join us on the journey of Lent, at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings

## Sending Hymn

### O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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