

VALLEYS *of* LENT

*Worship for the
Sacred Season*



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Worship Service
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

Rev. Marty Marks
Rev@godwithusilc.org

511 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115

February 18, 2026
11am & 7:00 p.m. in-person
YouTube & Facebook Live

Ash Wednesday - The Valley of Dry Bones

♪ Pre-Service Music

Service of the Sacrament & Imposition of Ashes

(The Lord's Supper is celebrated in this service in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. If you share this confession, we invite you to commune with us. If you have doubts or questions concerning this confession of our faith community, we ask that you withhold participation until receiving clarification or instruction from our pastor. The pastor will also offer a blessing to any unconfirmed children who desire it.) (The imposition of ashes symbolizes our submission to God, our dust to dustness, and our need for scrubbing, cleansing and purifying which we receive through the sacrifice of Christ's body and blood. The process for receiving ashes will be explained during the service.)

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

- P** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come?
- C** **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**
- P** He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- C** **He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- P** Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared.
- C** **With Jesus by my side, The righteous path I take. I in his flock abide E'en for his own name's sake. He cares for me in all my needs, Through each dark valley safely leads, On verdant pasture richly feeds.**
- P** The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- C** **The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.**
- P** The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- C** **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**
- P** Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared.
- P** To you we lift up our eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
- C** **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy on us.**

Prayer of the Day

P Dear God, we know we are dust and to dust we shall return. This Lent, remind us that we are nothing without you, who created us and made us in your image. Forgive us for our fall into sin, which brought death and destruction to the world. In this season, bring us back to new life in you with the Good News that your Son was put to death on the cross so that we might arise out of the valley of dry bones to live eternally with you. Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes takes place at this time.

Participants are invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive a mark of ashes.

♪ Hymn During the Imposition of Ashes: “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” ---LSB #440 vs 1-4

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff’ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.
- 2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev’ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God’s only Son
Suffered without measure?

Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

P Having received the symbol of repentance, let us confess our sins to God our Savior, using the words of the psalmist David.

C “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!...Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

P God has had mercy on us, and for the sake of Christ Jesus our Redeemer, he has forgiven our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:8-21

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for[d] your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 3:1-16

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Sermon Text

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay

sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

♪ Sermon Hymn: “Fight the Good Fight”

---LSB #664

- 1 **Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.**
- 2 **Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**
- 3 **Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.**
- 4 **Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.**

Text: Public domain

The Drama- Ezekiel and The Lord

Tom Sawyer & Rev. Marty Marks

Sermon: “The Valley of Dry Bones”

Rev. Marty Marks

P We are ashes, heavenly Father, fashioned from the dust of the earth, to which we must return. We are dust, heavenly Father, besmudged with sin and disobedience, and to dust we must return. But we are your dust, heavenly Father, fashioned by your fingers and breathed into by your own life-giving breath. We came into being at your behest. And now, most gracious God, we poor sinners do beseech you: Come to deliver us, whom you made from dust.

C Let your Holy Spirit breathe new life into these dry bones.

P Blow upon the dry valleys of our existence. Hover over us as once your Spirit brooded over the face of the deep, and refresh us with the forgiveness bought by the blood of Jesus Christ, who gave up his breath on the cross so that we might be revived. Come to deliver us, whom you made from dust.

C **Let your Holy Spirit breathe new life into these dry bones.**

P Accompany us through every valley we traverse this Lenten season and throughout our lives. Be present to deliver us from fearsome enemies and slithering temptations; keep our feet from falling, our minds from wandering, our wills from wavering. Whenever we are confronted by the old evil Foe, come to deliver us, whom you made from dust.

C **Let your Holy Spirit breathe new life into these dry bones.**

P With the tender concern of a shepherd, care for those for whom we care, the sick and the injured, the hospitalized and the homebound, the lonely and despairing, the frightened and the oppressed, and those who grieve. Bring them once again to green pastures and still waters, and refresh their souls. Come to deliver us, whom you made from dust.

C **Let your Holy Spirit breathe new life into these dry bones.**

P Let war and strife give place to peace and concord throughout the world, and make us instruments of your peace, those who work for life in the midst of the death that surrounds us. For all humanity, in every place we pray: Come to deliver us, whom you made from dust.

C **Let your Holy Spirit breathe new life into these dry bones.**

P For the sake of him who gave up his spirit for us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

The Service of the Sacrament

Prayer of Preparation

P The Sacrament of Holy Communion delivers to us the forgiveness of sins earned for us by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. His real Body and Blood come to us in, with and under the bread and wine. Not only are our sins forgiven through this meal, our faith is strengthened, and the Holy Spirit guides us to be better and more effective servants to God. To help prepare our hearts and minds as we receive these gifts, please join me in praying:

P & **C** **Father I trust in Your Son, Jesus, as my Savior. As I prepare to receive His real Body and Blood into me, please make my heart inclined to receive it in a way pleasing to You. Create a true sense of repentance in my heart and a sincere desire to follow You after it is received. Please empower me to serve You better in a sense of unity with You and with others. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The Distribution

♪ Hymn During the Distribution “Go to Dark Gethsemane ”

---LSB #436

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- 3 Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- 4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

Text: Public domain

Benediction

Silent Prayers

Announcements

Postlude

Participants – February 18, 2026		
Altar Guild: Jackie Hanson		
	11:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m.
Organist	Linda Conrad	Linda Conrad
Pastor	Rev. Marty Marks	Rev. Marty Marks
Voice Actors	Tom Sawyer & Pastor Marty	Tom Sawyer & Pastor Marty
Videographer/Sound	---	
Slides	---	
Communion Assist.	Tom Sawyer & Ron Feldmann	Ken Boldt & Dan Lohmeier

TO BE A SPONSOR: Contact the office to reserve a date.

Cost: \$50 Flowers.

\$250 One-hour radio broadcast of the church service; \$125 Half-sponsorships are also available.

Make your check out to Immanuel, with a notation on the memo line saying, “flowers,” or “radio.”

These checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

OPEN FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS: March 8 & 29; April 19; May 10; June 7, 14, 21 & 28

OPEN RADIO SPONSORSHIPS: March 22 & 29; April 26; May 3, 24 & 31; June 7, 14 & 21

Rev. Marty Marks, Pastor 815-501-3951; rev@godwithusilc.org

C-J Motisi, Adult Choir Director, LCMS certified Lay Minister cj.cmssc@gmail.com 630-664-8005

Katie Martinez, Pre-School Director, 815-756-6669 (o); LittleLambs@godwithusilc.org

Darlene Hillman, Office Manager, 815-756-6669; office@godwithusilc.org

Alma Sanchez, Secretary, almas@immanueldekalb.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CHURCH PHONE: 815-756-6669; 756-6675; **Fax:** 815-756-9585

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CHURCH WEBSITE: www.ImmanuelDeKalb.com