

# ASHES

Tom Conry



1. We rise a-gain from ash-es, from the good we've failed to
2. We of-fer you our fail-ures, we of-fer you at-
3. Then rise a-gain from ash-es, let heal-ing come to
4. † Thanks be to the Fa-ther, who made us like him-



1. do. We rise a-gain from ash-es, to cre-ate our-selves a-
2. tempts, the gifts not ful-ly giv-en, the dreams not ful-ly
3. pain, though spring has turned to win-ter, and sun-shine turned to
4. self. † Thanks be to his Son, who saved us by his



1. new. If all our world is ash-es, then must our lives be
2. dreamt. Give our stum-bl-ings di-rec-tion, give our vi-sions wid-er
3. rain. The rain we'll use for grow-ing, and cre-ate the world a-
4. death. † Thanks be to the Spir-it who cre-ates the world a-



1. true, an of-fer-ing of ash-es, an of-fer-ing to you.
2. view, an of-fer-ing of ash-es, an of-fer-ing to you.
3. new from an of-fer-ing of ash-es, an of-fer-ing to you.
4. new from an of-fer-ing of ash-es, an of-fer-ing to you.

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## Lent 2025 Wednesdays - Created for Community

Dinner & Conversation 6:15—7:00 p.m.

Worship 7:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. "Bless this Night"

March 12: ...with Creation; Message—Kevin Papp

March 19: ... with All the Saints; Message—Luka Khomenko

March 26: ... with our Neighbor; Message—Marilyn Hall

April 2: ... with those on the Margins; Message—Ron Marks

April 9: ... with Christ; Message—Georgia Cobbs

## Holy Week Worship at Immanuel

**Palm/Passion Sunday**, April 13, 10 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday**, April 17, 5—6 p.m. Drive Through Communion

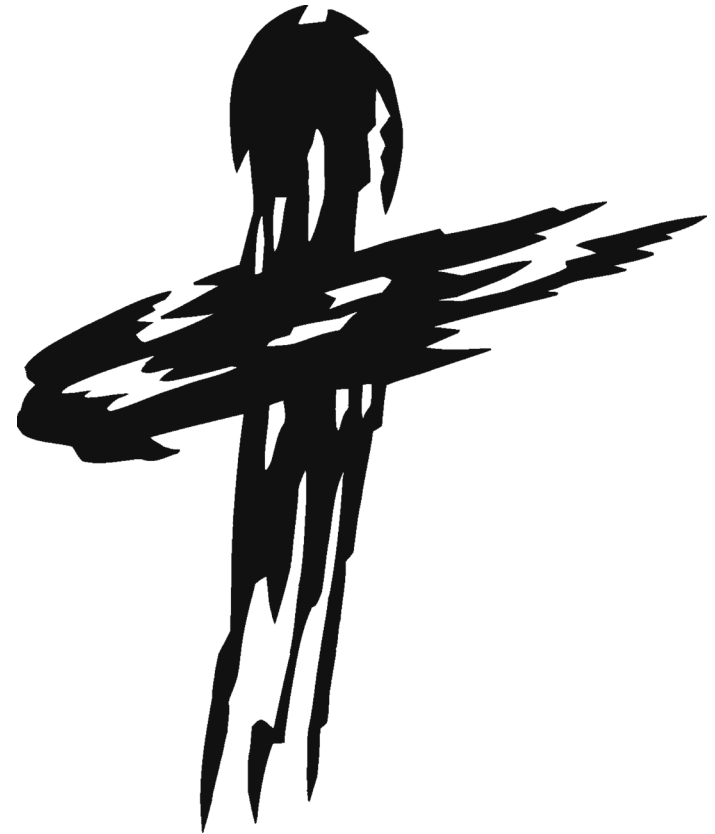
**Good Friday**, April 18, 7:00 p.m. Seven Last Words & Prayers at Cross

**Easter Vigil**, April 19, 3 p.m.—5 p.m. @ UCC

**Easter Sunday**, April 20, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

# Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025 7:00 pm



ImmanuelLutheran  
CHURCH

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

830 South Avenue West

Missoula, MT 59801

406-549-0736

[www.imluchurch.org](http://www.imluchurch.org)

Pastor Molly Sasser-Goehner

Pastor Rebekah Cochrane

## Prelude

*A time for prayer and quiet meditation in preparation for Lent.*

## Welcome

## Invocation

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Who forgives all our sin,  
Whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**

## Confession of Sin

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to live in the joy of communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended. By our sin, we grieve God, who does not desire us to come into judgment, but who desires us to turn to God and live.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

### Using Psalm 51:1-12 & Psalm 139:1-14

*The bold text will be read by the pulpit side.*

*The light text will be read by the piano side.*

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. (Psalm 51)**  
You have searched me, LORD,  
**and you know me.**

You know when I sit and when I rise;  
**you perceive my thoughts from afar. (Psalm 139)**

**Sung Refrain: Do Not Forsake Me**

For I know my transgressions,  
**and my sin is ever before me. (Psalm 51)**  
You discern my going out and my lying down;  
**you are familiar with all my ways. (Psalm 139)**  
Against 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. (Psalm 51)**

## Do Not Forsake Me

Do not for - sake me, O God of my sal - va - tion.  
Do not hide your face from me.

Text and music: Tom Witt, based on Psalm 27:9

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## LAMB OF GOD

Congregation

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

Final Stanza

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Ash Wednesday: Marked with the Sign of the Cross

Ashes are a rich symbol rooted in ancient Jewish customs and practices. Ashes represent frailty, humility, repentance, sorrow, mourning, cleansing and renewal. Glitter (biodegradable, cosmetic-grade) has been added to the ashes to represent another side of our humanity – goodness, joy, and belovedness – a reminder that we are made of earth dust *and* star dust. As these ashes are applied to the forehead in the form of a cross, the following words are said, “remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” These words echo words from the burial of the dead and final committal “*earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*” The service continues with Jesus’ instructions for the disciplines of the Christian life.

**Invitation to Lent** Beginning with Ash Wednesday, we enter the time of Lent; 40 days to mark Jesus’ journey to the cross and his Passover from death to life. 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. The disciplines of Lent are self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love; disciplines we are able to do as we are strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

### Sung Prayers: God of Mercy, Be with Us



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

### *Sung Refrain: Do Not Forsake Me*

Before a word is on my tongue  
**you, LORD, know it completely.** (*Psalm 139*)  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
**a sinner when my mother conceived me.** (*Psalm 51*)  
You hem me in behind and before,  
**and you lay your hand upon me.**  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
**too lofty for me to attain.** (*Psalm 139*)  
You desire truth in the inward being;  
**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.** (*Psalm 51*)

### *Sung Refrain: Do Not Forsake Me*

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.** (*Psalm 51*)  
Where can I go from your Spirit?  
**Where can I flee from your presence?**  
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
**if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
**if I settle on the far side of the sea,**  
even there your hand will guide me,  
**your right hand will hold me fast.** (*Psalm 139*)

### *Sung Refrain: Do Not Forsake Me*

Hide your face from my sins,  
**and blot out all my iniquities.** (*Psalm 51*)  
If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,”  
**even the darkness will not be dark to you;**  
**the night will shine like the day,**  
**for darkness is as light to you.** (*Psalm 139*)  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and put a new and right spirit within me.**  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
**and do not take your holy spirit from me.** (*Psalm 51*)  
For you created my inmost being;  
**you knit me together in my mother’s womb.** (*Psalm 139*)

### *Sung Refrain: Do Not Forsake Me*

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
**and sustain in me a willing spirit.** (*Psalm 51*)  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
**your works are wonderful,**  
**I know that full well.** (*Psalm 139*)

**Sung Refrain: Do Not Forsake Me**

### Imposition of Ashes

*All are invited to receive the sign of ashes on their foreheads in the form of a cross. This is a time for personal reflection, prayer, and meditation.*

*Each person is marked with a cross of ashes, the minister says:  
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

### Instrumental Music

*Following the imposition of ashes, the service continues:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.  
**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord.  
**Bring us with all your saints the joy of his resurrection.**  
Almighty God does not desire the death of sinners. God desires that we may turn from evil and live. In humility we ask God to grant us true repentance, faith, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, until at last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### Scripture Readings

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

*Gospel Acclamation: "Return to God" - Assembly Refrain*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Proclamation

### Prayers of Intercession

*"God of Mercy, Be with Us" (see refrain on back)*

### Sharing the Peace

### Offering And Prayer

### Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation is a four-part setting of the Great Thanksgiving. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Presider, and the second and third are for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al-so 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 God thanks and praise."

### Proper Preface (*sung*)

**Holy, Holy, Holy** (*see back*)

### Eucharist Prayer

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. **Amen.**

### Words of Institution

...Remembering Jesus' love for us on the way to the cross, at the table, and to the end, we confess the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

### The Lord's Prayer—Traditional

### Holy Communion

### Distribution Song

*"Lamb of God" (see back)*

*"Ashes" (see back)*

### Communion Blessing

### Communion Prayer

**O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Benediction

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you † peace. **Amen.**

### Closing Song

*"I Want Jesus To Walk With Me" #325*

### Dismissal

Marked with the Cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Share the love of Christ with all!**

### Postlude