



Ash Wednesday Service
February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

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.

Order for Worship

Silent Meditation

Prelude ~ "Lord, Rebuke Me Not"

Trio- Kurt Klinger-Wilensky,
Steve Rowe, Jonathan Oehler

Lord, rebuke me not in thy fury, nor chasten me in thy wrath;
have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak;
heal me, Lord, for all my bones are troubled,
and my soul is vexed exceedingly;
but Lord, how long?
Turn thou, O Lord, and deliver my soul;
save me for thy mercy sake.

Text: Psalm 6:1-4

Music: Matthew Locke

Gathering

At the tolling of the bell, the assembly may rise.

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.
I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;
With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Greeting

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Invitation to Lent

P: 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Holy God, holy and mighty,

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

C: **have mercy on us.**

Blessing 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.

C: **Amen.**

At this time, you may impose ash on your own or the forehead of those in your household. You may already have ash on your head, or you may not have ash at all. You may make the sign of the cross on the forehead with your finger, knowing that this was done in your baptism. You were baptized into new life in Christ as well as baptized into his death.

Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. Trusting God's mercy.

Absolution

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.

The assembly may be seated.

Word

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.

L: A reading from Joel.

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—
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.

Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 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.
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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 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.

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?'"

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51 ~ "A Psalm of Confession"

*O God, have mercy, have mercy according to your love;
in your abundant mercy, cleanse me from my sins.
O Lord, I know my transgressions, I know my sinful ways.
Forgive my sins against you. Lord, have mercy.*

Purge me from my sin, then I shall be pure.
Wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Make me hear of joy and gladness.
Make me hear that I, the afflicted one may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, Blot out all my iniquities.
Miserere nobis.

Text: Psalm 51:1-4; 7-9

Music: Hal H. Hopson

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.

L: A reading from Second Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
For our sake he made him 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.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly may rise.

Gospel Acclamation

Sung by all



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

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

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

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

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

P: Jesus said to the disciples:

"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.

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.

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

"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.

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.

"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.

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

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

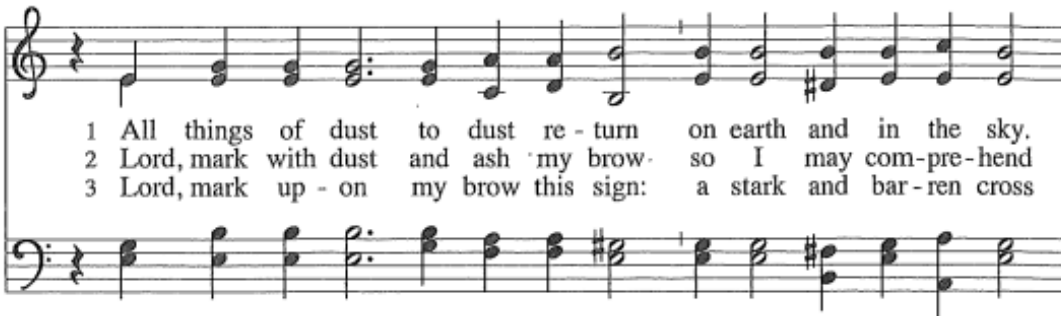
The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

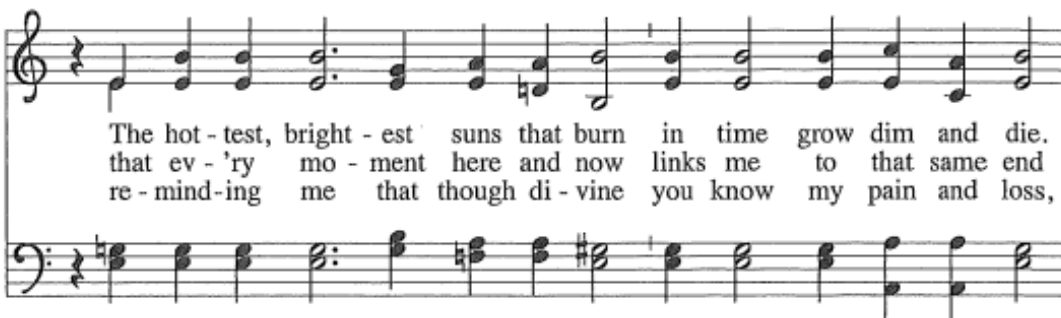
Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ "All Things of Dust to Dust Return"



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow - so I may com-pre-hend
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a-wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the forest floor re-vert to dust and clay.
yet by their waning light discern your own undying fire.
how death itself is but a flash that dies a-way in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945
Music: Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585
Text © 2009 Oxford University Press

THIRD MODE MELODY
C M D

Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

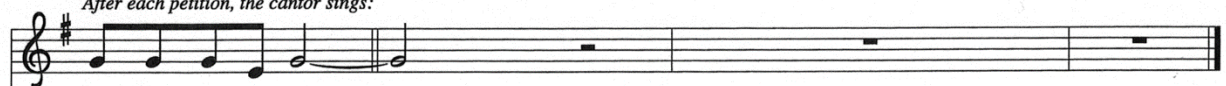
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession


A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition, the cantor sings:



Hear our prayer, O Lord. —

All respond in harmony



Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.

A: O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ.

A: O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants, and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made.

A: O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden.

A: O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially those on our minds and hearts and support caregivers who attend to all in need.

A: O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection.

A: O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love.

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem ~ “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Chamber Choir

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and bear thirst, so teach us gracious Lord,
to die to self and always live by your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,
forevermore in life and death, Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that when this life of suffering is past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

Text: Claudia F. I. Hernaman

Music: Zebulon M. Highben

Voluntary ~ “*Third Mode Melody*”

David Maxwell

As the gifts are presented, the assembly may rise and sing:

Offertory Hymn ~ Create in Me A Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of the hymn consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

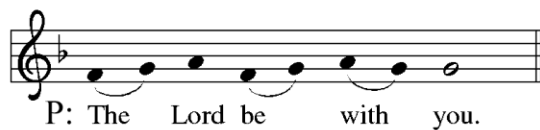
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the hymn. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

Offertory Prayer

- A: Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.
Accompany us in this meal,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

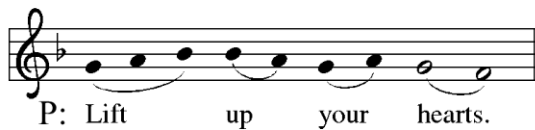
Great Thanksgiving



P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them to the Lord.



P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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 in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

P: 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 ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.**

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: A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

Lord's Prayer



A: Lord, remember us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray.



ALL: Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

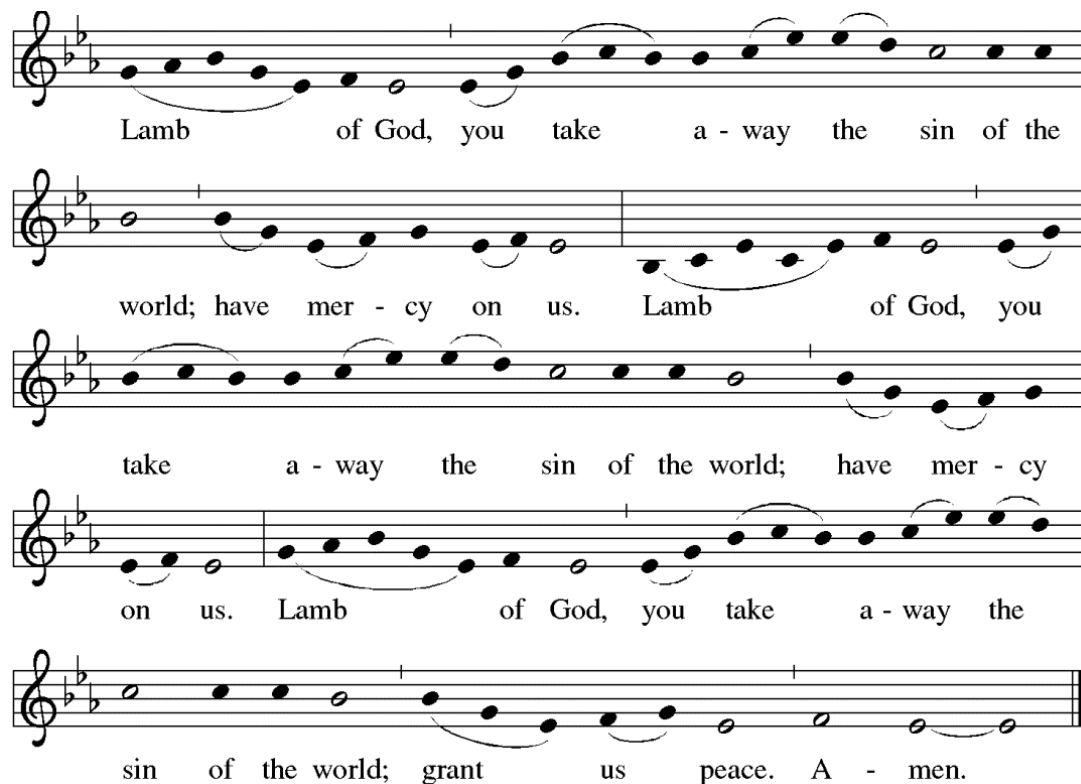
Invitation to Communion

You may have already or will collect the pre-packaged communion elements that were consecrated when this service was recorded. If you have not already you may consume them now. If you are unable to receive you may pray this prayer of spiritual communion:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

A: The gifts of God for the people of God.
 Thanks be to God.
 This is the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

Communion Canticle ~ Agnus Dei

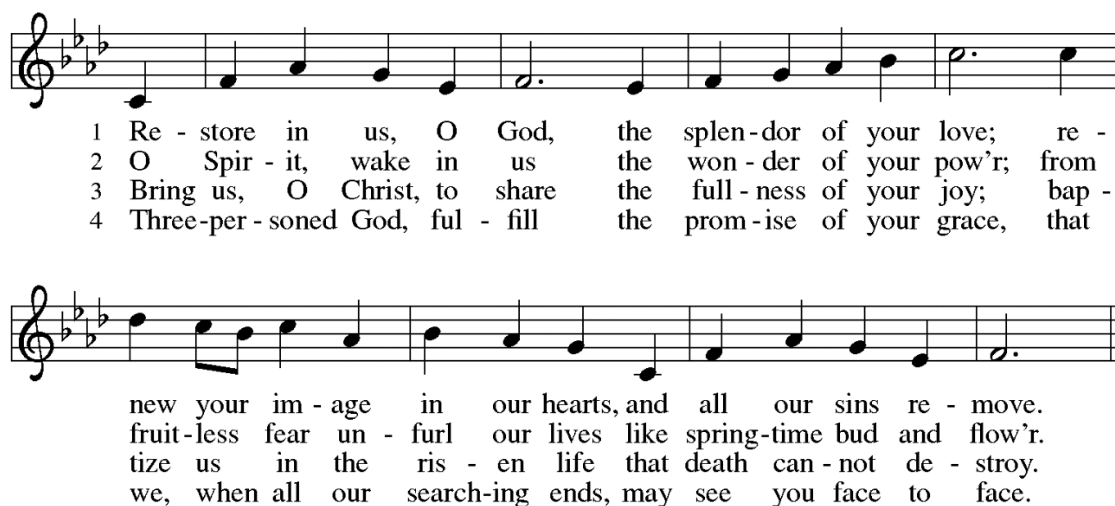


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Song ~ Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that
new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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Prayer After Communion

- A: God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending 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.**

Silent procession and departure.

Serving Tonight

Presiding Minister	Pastor Rachel Manke
Director of Music	Lawrence Baker
Lector	Steven Taylor
Chamber Choir	Deborah Swider, Patricia Fogal MajaLisa Fritzhuspen, Kurt Klinger-Wilensky Steve Rowe, Jonathan Oehler

